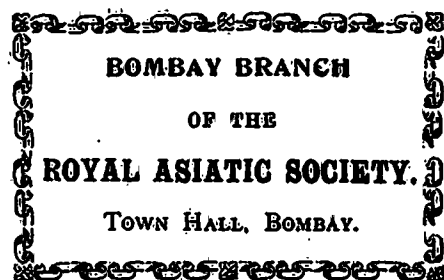




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Supplementary despatches
Correspondances and memoranda
of
the Duke of Wellington

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Vol. V.

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P R E F A C E.



MAJOR-GENERAL SIR ARTHUR WELLESLEY arrived in London from India in September, 1805. He was appointed to serve on the Staff in Great Britain on the 30th October; and at the close of the year, and during the early part of 1806, he commanded a detachment of troops under the orders of Lieutenant-General Don, in an expedition to Hanover. In February, 1806, he was posted to a brigade of infantry stationed on the coast of Sussex, in readiness to resist an expected invasion by Napoleon Buonaparte. In April, 1806, Sir Arthur entered the House of Commons as member for the borough of Rye, in compliance with an invitation from the Premier—Lord Grenville, the friend from boyhood, and the stanch supporter, of Marquess Wellesley. Before taking this step, Sir Arthur consulted his friends and those of his brother; and the following letter explains the grounds upon which he acceded to the proposition:—

Viscount Castlereagh to Major-Gen. the Hon. Sir A. Wellesley.

MY DEAR WELLESLEY,

St. James's Square, Wednesday evening.

I lose no time in replying to your letter, which I received just as I was sitting down to dinner. As far as I can venture, as an old and very sincere friend, to express an opinion, I think you cannot permit yourself for a moment

to hesitate in accepting Lord Grenville's proposal. Your presence in the House may be of the utmost service to your brother, and you must feel that this consideration is, and ought to be, conclusive. I am sure, whatever may have occurred to associate Lord Grenville with other connections in the government, that Mr. Pitt's friends, so far as their sentiments can be permitted to weigh on such a point, will be unanimously of opinion that, circumstanced as Lord Wellesley is at present, both with respect to the government and the active steps taken to arraign his public conduct, your first and only consideration must be the protection of his character and services from unjust aspersions, which your intimate knowledge of the details of his Indian administration must qualify you, above any other individual, to do.*

* During the Parliamentary Sessions of 1805-6 the Indian Administration of Marquess Wellesley formed the subject of frequent discussions in the House of Commons. These discussions originated with a Mr. Paull, who had resided some years at Lucknow, and had carried on an extensive trade there. He became obnoxious to the reigning Nawab Vizier, Saadut Ali, whom he described in a letter to Major Malcolm as "a dangerous and very bad man;" and he complained to the Marquess Wellesley of impediments and injury to his traffic by the mode in which the native government of Oude collected custom duties on certain merchandise, alleging that such proceedings were "totally incompatible with that wise, liberal, and enlightened policy that marked every act of the administration of His Excellency" (*Petition to Governor-General, 4th Dec., 1802*). Mr. Paull was expelled from the dominions of the Nawab and sent to Calcutta, from which place the Governor-General might have sent him to England as an unlicensed trader; but, moved by representations that Mr. Paull would suffer pecuniary loss by his sudden expulsion from Lucknow, Lord Wellesley used his influence with the Nawab to induce him to permit Mr. Paull's return that he might wind up his affairs; but on the distinct understanding that he would for the future abstain from political intrigues. Mr. Paull expressed himself in the strongest terms of gratitude to the Governor-General, returned to Oude, ingratiated himself with the Nawab and his ministers by declaring that he possessed much influence with the English government, and became a guest of the British Resident, Colonel Scott, at whose house he learned the contents of various State Papers connected with the Oude Treaty of 1801.

Having amassed a large fortune, Mr. Paull went to Calcutta on his way to England. On arriving at the Presidency he was treated with marked kindness, dined repeatedly with Lord Wellesley, and became very intimate with Captain Sydenham, Major Malcolm, Colonel Meyrick Shawe, and other members of the Governor-General's establishment; he thus possessed himself of information which he could not otherwise have obtained, and which he subsequently produced for the sole purpose of injuring his benefactor. Soon after his arrival in England Mr. Paull was patronised by a section of the Directors of the East India Company, who were hostile to the Governor-General, and eager for his recall: he became a member of Parliament; in that capacity made frequent attacks on the policy of the Governor-General; and on 22nd April, 1806, preferred in the House of Commons charges for "high crimes and misdemeanors against Richard Colley, Marquess Wellesley." The impeachment, and ninety-eight motions for papers made by Mr. Paull, involved numerous allegations, and caused several protracted debates. A motion made and adopted by the House on the 22nd April for the printing of the first charge was unhesitatingly set aside by the House on the ensuing day. Before

When I see Lord Camden, I will communicate to him your letter; but I can venture to anticipate his opinion with sufficient confidence to dissuade you from delaying, as I conceive unnecessarily, your decision.

I am, dear Wellesley,

Ever yours truly and sincerely,

CASTLEREAGH.

The state of Ireland was viewed at this period with considerable apprehension: the Roman Catholics began to agitate for a removal of political disabilities, and at the beginning of the year 1807 prepared a
any further steps were taken, the mover of the impeachment terminated his life by suicide, as stated in the following letter:

Colonel Meyrick Shawe to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR,

Limmer's Hotel, Saturday, 16th April, 1808.

It is possible that no other person will think it of sufficient importance to acquaint you with the death of Mr. Paull, which took place this morning; and I therefore write a few lines to mention it to you, not as a piece of intelligence that can give you any satisfaction, but as a curious event.

It seems he went to the Union [Club] on Thursday, dined with a large party in high spirits, and drank a great deal of wine. He played at night and lost about 300*l*. He abused Ragget violently for not lending him more to go on with, but Ragget refused, pleading his own orders when sober never to lend him more than 200*l*. at a time. At five o'clock yesterday morning he returned home and went to bed, and in the course of the day he sent for a friend, to whom he mentioned his loss, who lent him the money to pay this debt of honour. At five o'clock in the evening of yesterday the chambermaid went to his door, and, finding it locked, called to let him know it was late. He desired her to go away, and that he would ring when he wanted her. Suspecting, however, that something was wrong, as it had not been his custom to lock his door, the woman soon returned to listen, and, hearing him groan, forced open the door, and found that he had cut his throat with his razor. It appeared that he had opened a vein, but probably finding that a slow operation, he took his razor and did the business effectually. He has left no letter, but has left a will, of which I have heard no particulars, except that Sir W. Wolesley's son is executor.

There was a note sent from Carlton House to you, I presume, with the intelligence. The servant brought the note to Lord Wellesley, saying he was desired to do so in your absence. But Lord W. did not like to open the note.

I shall set out from hence before this day week, and hope I shall escape blame for my unavoidable absence.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Your most obliged and faithful servant,

MEYRICK SHAWE.

Lord Wellesley, on hearing of the catastrophe, remarked that "Mr. Paull could not have died by a more ignoble hand." The impeachment cost Lord Wellesley upwards of 30,000*l*., and subjected him to several years of harass and anxiety. He declined office until Parliament had exonerated him from the charges made against his administration in India, which was finally pronounced to be deserving of high approbation.

petition to Parliament, which, by the influence of the Viceroy (the Duke of Bedford), was for a time kept in abeyance. One of the grievances complained of was the law which authorized their exclusion from Commissions in the military service of the country ; and in order to render their position in the army no longer one of sufferance, the Cabinet proposed to introduce a clause into the Mutiny Bill by which Parliament would have an opportunity of annually deciding on the right claimed and conferred. The King, when informed by Earl Spencer (Home Secretary) of the contemplated alteration in the Mutiny Bill, considered it intimately connected with the whole Roman Catholic question : in a communication to the Cabinet, dated 10th Feb. 1807, a desire was expressed to prevent " the renewal of a question upon which His Majesty's sentiments, and the general sense of the country, have already been so clearly pronounced ; " and it was added : " The King trusts his Parliament never would, under any circumstances, agree to it. His Majesty's objections to this proposal do not result from any slight motives : they have never varied ; for they arise from the principles by which he is guided through life, and to which he is determined to adhere. On this question a line has been drawn from which he cannot depart ; nor can Earl Spencer be surprised that such should be His Majesty's feelings upon this occasion, as he cannot have forgotten what occurred when the subject was brought forward seven years ago, and he had hoped in consequence that it would never again have been agitated." The intended alteration in the Mutiny Bill was abandoned ; but on

the 5th March Viscount Howick introduced into Parliament a "*Roman Catholic Army and Navy Service Bill*," the object of which was to make it "lawful for His Majesty to grant or confer any Military Commission, warrant or appointment whatever, either in His Majesty's sea or land forces, to or upon any of His Majesty's liege subjects without exception;" provided that each person so appointed "made and subscribed an oath of fidelity and allegiance to the Crown, promising to maintain and defend the King against all treasons and traitorous conspiracies, and disclose and make known the same as soon as they shall come to his knowledge; and further that he would maintain and support the succession to the Crown as it then stood; and support the Established Constitution and Government of the United Kingdom against all attempts whatsoever that shall be made against the same." This proposition gave great satisfaction to the Roman Catholics, but caused considerable uneasiness to the Sovereign. Lord Grenville had audiences of the King on the 11th and 13th March with a view to the removal of this uneasiness; and on the 12th March Viscount Howick * sought an audience to explain the principles of "the Bill now depending in Parliament for the admission of Dissenters from the Established Church into the army and navy." Until this explanation was given, and a misapprehension removed, Lord Howick postponed from the 12th to the 17th March the second reading of the Bill; and assured His Majesty that "his most anxious endeavours shall be used during the interval to find some mode by which a measure,

* Afterwards Earl Grey, K.G.

originally proposed from a sense of duty alone, may be rendered less objectionable to your Majesty.”* Viscount Howick had an interview with the King on the 13th March. Two days after a Cabinet Council was held; consisting of such members of the Government† as were favourable to the intended Bill, and a minute thereon was adopted for submission and explanation to the King by Lord Grenville in person on the 16th. In this document the majority of His Majesty’s ministers declared that, “on a full consideration of all the circumstances connected with the Bill, they do not intend that any further proceeding should be had on their part in Parliament. This determination rests entirely on the same motives which have induced them to abstain from bringing forward other and more extensive measures connected with the same subject, and which would in their judgment be highly advantageous to the public interests. They had flattered themselves that the present proposal might not have encountered the same difficulties which attend the measures to which they allude; but as this hope appears to have been founded on a misunderstanding, they judge it on the whole more consonant to their public duty not to press forward any further the discussion of the present Bill. They have thought that this course of proceeding would be both more respectful to your Majesty and more advantageous to the public interests than any statement to alter the Bill so as to bring it nearer to the strict letter of the Irish Act.

* Communication from Viscount Howick to the King, dated Downing-street, 12th March, 1807.

† Lords Grenville, Holland, Moira, Howick, H. Petty, and Messrs. William Windham and Thomas Grenville. Five members of the Cabinet did not concur in the opinions of the majority.

The points of difference which exist between that law and the present Bill relate to matters, the consideration of which (as it appears to them) it is almost impossible to separate from the measure itself; and they have found the attempt impracticable to reduce the Bill to such a form as would on the one hand be likely to obviate the difficulties which now obstruct its success, and as could, on the other hand, be at all satisfactory for them to propose.

“In stating to Parliament the determination to make this very painful sacrifice to what they conceive to be their public duty, they trust your Majesty will see the indispensable necessity of their expressing (with the same openness by which their language on that subject has uniformly been marked) the strong persuasion which each of them individually entertains of the advantages which would result to the empire from a different course of policy towards the Catholics of Ireland. These opinions they have never concealed from your Majesty; they continue strongly impressed with them, and it is obviously indispensable to their public characters that they should openly avow them both on the present occasion, and in the possible event of the discussion of the Catholic Petition in Parliament—a discussion which they have equally endeavoured to prevent; on which (if it should be forced upon them) there might not be a perfect uniformity of conduct between them; but in which the adherence of them all to their former opinions must naturally be declared.

“They beg leave to add, that they cannot look without great uneasiness and apprehension at the present state of Ireland, which they consider as the

only vulnerable part of the British Empire. The situation of that country is, as they fear, likely to force itself more and more upon the consideration of your Majesty's Government and of Parliament; and it is essential, not only to their own characters, but also, as they sincerely believe, to the public interests, that the deference they have felt it their duty to show on this occasion to the opinions and feelings expressed by your Majesty should not be understood as restraining them from submitting from time to time, as their duty is, for your Majesty's decision, such measures respecting that part of your United Kingdom as the course of circumstances shall appear to require." *

On the 17th March the King forwarded to Lord Grenville his answer to the Minute of the Cabinet, and requested, "with a view to the prevention of all future mistakes, that when they shall have duly considered the latter part of His Majesty's answer their determination should be stated on paper." In the answer referred to, the King, after expressing his satisfaction at the deference shown to his feelings by the Ministers withdrawing the Bill, "regrets, that while they have felt bound as his Ministers to adopt this line of conduct, they should as individuals consider it necessary to state to Parliament opinions which are known to be decidedly contrary to his principles, at a moment, too, when it is the declared object of his Government not to encourage any disposition on the part of the Roman Catholics of Ireland to prefer a petition to Parliament.

* Extract from Cabinet Minute for the King, dated Downing-street, 15th March, 1807.

“From the latter part of the minute the King must conclude that, although the Bill now depending is dropped, they have been unable to make up their minds not to press upon him in future measures connected with a question which has already proved so distressing to him; nor can His Majesty conceal from them that this intimation on their part, unless withdrawn, will leave the matter in a state most embarrassing and unsatisfactory to him; and, in his opinion, not less so to them. The King therefore considers it due to himself, and consistent with the fair and upright conduct which it has and ever will be his object to observe toward every one, to declare at once most unequivocally that upon this subject his sentiments never can change; that he cannot ever agree to any concession to the Catholics which his confidential servants may in future propose to him; and that under these circumstances, and after what has passed, his mind cannot be at ease unless he shall receive a positive assurance from them which shall effectually relieve him from all future apprehension.”

On the receipt of this communication a meeting was held at the house of Earl Spencer (who was unwell), when two-thirds in number of the Cabinet* agreed to the reply which should be sent to the King; and at half-past one on the morning of the 18th it was forwarded to Windsor. In this reply the ministers stated that when they were called to His Majesty's councils “no assurance was required from them inconsistent with those duties which were inseparable from that station;” and they observed,

* The absent and non-concurring members were Lords Erskine, Ellenborough, Fitzwilliam, and Sidmouth.

that "those who are entrusted by your Majesty with the administration of your extensive empire are bound by every obligation to submit to your Majesty, without reserve, the best advice that they can frame to meet the various exigencies of the times.

"The situation of Ireland appears to your Majesty's servants to constitute the most formidable part of the present difficulties of the empire. This subject must, as they conceive, require a continued and vigilant attention, and a repeated consideration of every fresh circumstance which may call for the interposition of your Majesty's Government or of Parliament. In forbearing to urge any further (while employed in your Majesty's service) a measure which would in their judgment have tended to compose the present uneasiness in Ireland, and have been productive of material benefit to the empire, they humbly submit to your Majesty that they have gone to the utmost possible extent of their public duty, but that it would be deeply criminal in them, with the general opinions that they entertain on the subject, to bind themselves to withhold from your Majesty, under all the various circumstances that may arise, those counsels which may eventually appear to them indispensably necessary for the peace and tranquillity of Ireland, and for defeating the enterprises of the enemy against the very existence of your Majesty's empire. Your Majesty's servants must deeply regret that any difficulty should arise on their part in giving the most prompt obedience to any demands which your Majesty considers indispensable to the ease of your Majesty's mind; but it is not possible for them, consistently with any sense of those obligations which

must always attach on the sworn counsellors of your Majesty, to withdraw a statement which was not made without the most anxious consideration of every circumstance which could be suggested by their earnest desire for your Majesty's ease, comfort, and happiness; or to give assurances which would impose upon them a restraint incompatible with the faithful discharge of the duty which they owe to your Majesty."

In consequence of this correspondence the confidence of the Crown in its constitutional advisers became impaired; irritation was manifested on both sides; the Ministry resigned on the 25th of March; a new Administration was formed, and Sir Arthur Wellesley became Secretary to the Government of Ireland. The following is a comparative view of the retiring and of the new Ministry.

	<i>Retiring Ministers. March, 1807.</i>	<i>New Ministers. April, 1807.</i>
First Lord of the Treasury } (Prime Minister) . . . }	*Lord Grenville . . .	*Duke of Portland.
President of the Council . . . }	*Viscount Sidmouth . . .	*Earl Camden.
Lord High Chancellor . . . }	*Lord Erskine . . .	*Lord Eldon.
Lord Privy Seal . . . }	*Lord Holland . . .	*Earl of Westmoreland.
First Lord of the Admiralty . . . }	*Right Hon. Thos. Grenville	*Lord Mulgrave.
Master General of the Ordnance	*Earl of Moira . . .	*Earl of Cutham.
Secretary of State, Home De- partment . . . }	*Earl Spencer . . .	*Lord Hawkesbury.
Secretary of State, Foreign Affairs	*Viscount Howick . .	*Right Hon. George Canning.
Secretary of State, Department of War and Colonies . . . }	*Right Hon. W. Windham	*Lord Castlereagh.
Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench . . . }	*Lord Ellenborough.	
Chancellor and Under Treasurer of the Exchequer . . . }	*Lord Henry Petty . .	*Right Hon. Spenc. Perceval.
A seat in the Cabinet without an Office . . . }	*Earl Fitzwilliam.	
President of Board of Control for Affairs of India . . . }	Right Hon. Geo. Tierney	Right Hon. R. S. Dundas.
President of Board of Trade . . . }	Earl of Auckland . . .	*Earl Bathurst.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lan- caster . . . }	Earl of Derby . . .	*Right Hon. Spenc. Perceval.
Secretary at War . . . }	Right Hon. H. Fitzpatrick	Sir James Pulteney, Bart.
Treasurer of the Navy . . . }	Right Hon. R. B. Sheridan	Right Hon. George Rose.
Joint Paymaster-General . . . }	{ Earl Temple . . .	Lord Charles Somerset.
	{ Lord John Townshend .	Right Hon. Charles Long.
	{ Earl of Buckinghamshire	Earl of Chichester.
	{ Earl of Carysfort . . .	Earl of Sandwich.
Secretaries of the Treasury . . }	{ Right Hon. N. Vansittart	William Huskisson, Esq.
	{ W. H. Freemantle, Esq. .	Hon. Henry Wellesley.
Master of the Rolls . . . }	Sir William Grant . . .	Sir William Grant.
Attorney-General . . . }	Sir Arthur Pigot . . .	Sir Vicary Gibbs.
Solicitor-General . . . }	Sir Samuel Romilly . .	Sir Thomas Plomer.

Those marked * were Members of the Cabinet.

IRELAND.

	<i>Retiring Ministers.</i> <i>March, 1807.</i>	<i>New Ministers.</i> <i>April, 1807.</i>
Lord Lieutenant	Duke of Bedford	Duke of Richmond.
Lord High Chancellor	Right Hon. Geo. Ponsoby	Lord Manners.
Chief Secretary	Right Hon. William Elliot	Hon. Sir Arthur Wellesley.
Chancellor of the Exchequer .	Right Hon. Sir J. Newport	Right Hon. John Foster.

When the Duke of Richmond assumed the position of Viceroy, and Sir Arthur Wellesley undertook the duties of Chief Secretary, Ireland was in a very distracted condition; the country was still suffering from the effects of the rebellions of 1798 and of 1803; religious animosity was rife; the Roman Catholics were claiming the political freedom which had been promised by Mr. Pitt as a means of reducing opposition to the Legislative Union in 1800, and the Protestants were unwilling to surrender their long-established and much cherished ascendancy. These circumstances, combined with the marked disaffection of a large portion of the lower class of society, rendered the militia and the yeomanry of the country a very precarious defence in the event of a French invasion. The violence of the Opposition in Parliament increased the difficulties of government, and it was considered necessary to maintain a strong majority in both Houses of the Legislature. The attainment of this object was materially assisted by the exercise of patronage in the wide field afforded for its operation by the separate executive establishments of Ireland, then abounding in appointments to light duties and heavy salaries.

These remarks may assist the reader in understanding the exact bearing of much of this correspondence, which furnishes authentic evidence regarding the cri-

tical transition state of the country immediately subsequent to the Union, and otherwise illustrates the political history of Ireland fifty years ago.

On the 4th April, 1809, Sir Arthur Wellesley resigned the office of Chief Secretary, and was appointed to command the Army in Portugal.

In subsequent volumes will be published supplementary documents connected with the expeditions to Copenhagen in 1807, and to Portugal in 1808; details of projected expeditions for the liberation of Spanish America; and various correspondence which took place during the Peninsular War, and the Campaign of 1815.

A volume containing Maps and Plans will complete the series of 'Military Despatches.'

IRISH CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the Right Hon. Maurice Fitzgerald, Knight of Kerry.**

[1.

London, No. 11, Harley-street,
30th March, 1807.

MY DEAR SIR,

You will have heard of the circumstances which have occasioned a change in His Majesty's councils, and of the official arrangements which have in consequence been made here. I have been appointed Secretary to the government of Ireland, and I assure you that I shall have great pleasure in availing myself of the opportunities that may be afforded to me of cultivating our old acquaintance and friendship. The King's servants have desired me to express to you their anxious wish to see you in London at an early period. We are anxious in the first place to have an opportunity of conversing with you upon the state of Ireland, and in the next place they are desirous of receiving from you that support which they are convinced you will be disposed to give to the King's government, and to the just exercise of his prerogative in the discussions on the important questions which it is probable will come under consideration upon the meeting of Parliament on the 8th of next month. They are aware that upon some of the questions relating to religious subjects you may consider yourself pledged to your constituents; they cannot expect that you will depart from such pledges, but they hope for your support upon all the questions connected with the recent exercise of the King's prerogative.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* Then one of the Commissioners of the Irish Exchequer, and M.P. for the county Kerry: subsequently Vice-Treasurer of Ireland, and a Lord of the Treasury in England.

The Right Hon. Maurice Fitzgerald to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin, 3rd April, 1807.

Your letter^d has just reached me, and I certainly am very much flattered and gratified by the friendly expressions it conveys.

I had some days since communicated to the Duke of Bedford my resignation of the office I have held, considering it incompatible with the line of conduct in Parliament which my opinions relative to the causes of the late change of ministry will necessarily dictate. These opinions arise from a conviction of the absolute necessity of such measures as shall compose the religious distractions of this country. You do me justice in supposing me averse to any infringement of His Majesty's prerogative, but I am not aware that, in the prosecution of the measures lately before Parliament, any such infringement was attempted.

It is matter of unfeigned regret to me to be obliged to differ from you and others amongst His Majesty's ministers, but to do otherwise would be to abandon my most fixed opinions on the interests of Ireland.

I have the honour to be, my dear Sir,

Most faithfully yours,

M. FITZGERALD.

[2.]

To ———.

MY DEAR MADAM,

No. 11, Harley-street, 4th April, 1807.

There are some ships in the port of ——— which have been captured from the subjects of the King of Prussia, which are to be sold under the orders of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. It is necessary that an agent should be appointed for the sale of this property, who will, of course, be required to give security for the property which will be delivered to his charge, and I shall be much obliged to you if you will name the person to be recommended to the Treasury as the agent for the performance of this service.

Upon the occasion of making this communication, I cannot avoid again expressing my anxious hope that the King's government may receive your support in the critical circumstances in which it is placed. You must be convinced of my desire to forward your views on every occasion; and I have to mention to you that I think I have it in my power to make such an arrangement in relation to the interests of your family and those of one of the King's Ministers as will be satisfactory to you and honourable to ———.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

————— to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,

6th April, 1807.

I avail myself of the earliest opportunity to express to you my acknowledgments for allowing me to name an agent for sale of the prize-ship at ————. I know of no persons more proper, either in point of mercantile experience, integrity, or responsibility, than Messrs. ———— and ———— to execute such a trust. They are opulent merchants at ————, no doubt will give ample security for the performance of anything they may be called upon to undertake, and, I am confident, would satisfactorily execute any orders with which the Treasury would entrust them.

I must also make to you my acknowledgment for stating to me, "that *you think* you have it in your power to make such an arrangement in relation to the interests of my family and those of *one* of the King's ministers as (you suppose) would be satisfactory to me, and honourable to ————." I must imagine that this passage in your letter refers to ————, because I know not of any matter that requires to be arranged between my family and that of any other of His Majesty's present servants. Undoubtedly there are some subjects remaining to be alluded to; but however I may respect the motive, so far as it refers to us, which has induced you to introduce this overture to me, it would be necessary that you should possess a more accurate knowledge of what has passed—of the actual conduct of ————, and of our injuries, and that I too should have much better security for the performance of any arrangement which he may be ready to agree to, before I can allow myself for a moment to listen to the repetition of those overtures of that gentleman, which have heretofore been voluntarily made to me through a nearer connexion than yourself, but which have no sooner been made than violated by him.

I cannot consent, even through the friendship of a relation so much respected and so nearly connected as yourself, to attend to any such offer until all that has wrongfully and oppressively, and I must say unconstitutionally, been taken from us, and usurped and disposed of by ———— and his family, shall have been restored to us. I must therefore, and particularly at this juncture, when our support is asked to the King's present servants, seemingly as a condition for proposing the arrangements with my family (and which, if listened to under such circumstances as now exist, might induce the suspicion of interested motives), beg leave to decline the offer which you have so handsomely made of your services to effect it. I persuade myself that you will, after this explanation, be fully convinced that it would be highly improper for me to act otherwise. On all other occasions I shall thankfully avail myself of that attention which you are so good as to offer, and to which, I trust, from the real condition of my family, its principles, services, and extensive possessions, it will be admitted to be entitled. As to the request which you repeat, that we may support the present government, I cannot say more than that I shall, according to the best of my judgment, always act in such manner as circumstances may require for the benefit of the empire, but more particularly for that of Ireland.

I remain, my dear Sir Arthur,

Truly your obliged

[3.]

To ———.

DEAR ———,

No. 11, Harley-street, 8th April, 1807.

I have spoken to the Duke of Richmond on the subjects which you mentioned to me this morning, and although the Irish arrangements are deferred till a future time, I have been desirous to give you the following answers :

Mr. ——— shall have a legal office. The Duke wishes to avoid promising any particular office without knowing more of individuals in Ireland, and the nature of the offices which they wish to fill. He will take an early opportunity of employing Mr. ——— as he wishes.

The Duke wishes to avoid making any promise relative to the Irish Peerage till he will go to Ireland and ascertain the nature of the different claims there are to receive this same favour. But the claim of Mr. ———, founded, as it is, upon family pretensions, those of fortune and of influence in the country, shall have its due weight whenever the Duke will take this subject into consideration.

The patronage of the county of ——— will be disposed of according to the recommendation of Mr. ——— and yourself.

It is not intended to add to the Privy Council, excepting those gentlemen who, from official station, must belong to that body. But if any commoners, not in office, should be added to the Privy Council, Mr. ——— and you will be among the number.

I have already stated to you the objection which exists to the arrangement which you have proposed relative to the Park. That objection is insurmountable, as you will find by an inquiry into what has passed here during the present session.

The Duke has desired me to tell you that it is impossible for him to enter upon a consideration of the disposal of the pensions of the year at the present moment. We do not know what portion of the sum has been disposed of, much less in what manner to apportion it to those who have claims upon it. You must state to me particularly the amount which you wish to have for Mrs. ———, and the Duke will then take into consideration what part of it can be granted in this year and what part in the following years.

I ought to have known when I spoke to you that the Irish government has but little or nothing to do with the staff office which you mentioned ; and as it is one of a permanent nature,

you are mistaken in supposing that the holder of it would be induced to resign it by anything which we could offer to his acceptance, or could promise for him.

I gave Lord Castlereagh a memorandum regarding Captain Bailey, and he promised to mention him to the Duke of York on this day, and to urge His Royal Highness to promote him immediately.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*To Lord Hawkesbury.**

[4.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 16th April, 1807.

I arrived here yesterday afternoon, having had but a bad passage from Holyhead. I have seen the Duke of Bedford † and some of the people this morning, and I am happy to tell you that the country in general is as quiet as it has been for some time. There has been no disturbance in Sligo since the close of the assizes, and there appears reason to hope that tranquillity will continue, more particularly as the magistrates have manifested a disposition to be more active than they had been at the commencement of the late disturbances.

The Duke of Bedford proposes to allow the sentence of the law on the respited prisoner Golding to be carried into execution on Saturday next. He writes to you on the subject of this prisoner this day, and therefore I shall only tell you that I think there is proof that he has told positive falsehoods in many instances. He has accused one person who has not been in Ireland for two years; and from these circumstances, and from his attempt to escape, I am induced to be of opinion that no credit ought to be given to any part of his story, standing as it does unsupported by the testimony of any other person.

The county of Mayo is quiet, and this tranquillity is attributed principally to the activity and example of Mr. D. Browne, the member for that county and brother of Lord Sligo. He is gone to England; but I hope that the tranquillity will not be disturbed during his absence.

* Robert Banks Jenkinson, eldest son of Charles first Earl of Liverpool; he succeeded his father 17th December, 1808, and was Prime Minister from 1812 to 1827.

† Then Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. He remained in Dublin until 21st April.

The assizes at Roscommon did not end as well as was expected. The juries acquitted two of the prisoners whose guilt was clearly proved, and these prisoners were ringleaders, I understand, of some consequence. There have been some disturbances in Roscommon since the assizes, in a part of the county situated between Lord Dillon's and French Park, in which, unfortunately, there is but one magistrate, a Mr. Wyatt, who is the agent of Lord Dillon. He is a very respectable and an active man.

There was a Catholic meeting yesterday in Dublin, which adjourned till Saturday. I have not yet heard the particulars of what passed. I understand that the objects of the meeting were to determine what steps should be taken regarding the petition, and to consider of an address from the Catholic body to the Duke of Bedford upon his departure. In regard to the first object, it appears that Grattan* had written to the leading Catholics disapproving of the manner in which the proceedings regarding the petition had been carried on, of Keogh's speech, of the time chosen for presenting the petition, and of its contents. He told them that he should consult some of their friends in England, and write to them again. They have adjourned till Saturday, as I understand, to have time to receive this promised letter.

In regard to the second object of the meeting, I understand that the Duke of Bedford has done everything in his power to prevent the Catholics from voting the Address. I am not enabled to say how far he has succeeded, or whether any and what steps were taken on this subject in the meeting of yesterday.

There are but few members of Parliament still remaining in Ireland; but upon these I write to Long† by this opportunity. I understand that the change of government is almost as popular in Ireland as it is in England, and that the line of conduct which has been prescribed for us, if steadily adhered to, is very likely to keep the country in tranquillity.

I remain, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* The Right Hon. Henry Grattan, M.P. for the City of Dublin.

† The Right Hon. Charles Long, Joint-Secretary to the Treasury; subsequently a Lord of the Treasury, and Paymaster to the Forces. He was raised to the peerage as Baron Farnborough in 1826, and died without issue 17th January, 1838.

To the Earl of Roden, Auditor-General.

[5.]

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 19th April, 1807.

I am commanded by the Lord Lieutenant to notify to your Lordship that his Grace has been pleased to appoint me his Chief Secretary.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[6.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 19th April, 1807.

The Duke of Richmond arrived this morning, and has taken possession of the government, to the great joy of those called "the loyal" in this country. The Catholics met yesterday, to the number of about 400. Keogh made a long and inflammatory speech, and ended with a proposition that the meeting should adjourn *sine die*, leaving the Catholic petition in the hands of Lord Fingall, to act with it according to circumstances. It was proposed that the petition should be presented to Parliament, and that their friends should suffer it to remain on the table; and another person proposed that the meeting should adjourn till the first day of the next session of Parliament, then to take up the subject again. Keogh objected to both these modes of proceeding; and called for the confidence of the meeting in Lord Fingall. He said that circumstances might occur which would render it desirable to proceed with the petition in this session, of which Lord Fingall would be a judge, and that, on the other hand, it might be advisable to take no further steps on this petition. His proposition was at last agreed to with only one dissenting voice.

I have not yet seen the report of what passed, but this is the substance of what has been related to me.* The Attorney-

* The meeting referred to was the commencement of an organized effort for the removal of the political disabilities under which the Roman Catholics then suffered. It was numerous and respectably attended. Mr. Daniel O'Connell spoke in support of "the late virtuous Administration, which had abolished slavery, and restored to the people the benefit of the Habeas Corpus Act." Mr. Henry Grattan was averse to presenting their "united petition" to Parliament at the present unsettled period. It was also

General (Plunket)* sent me the letter which he had received from Lord Redesdale, written subsequently to our meeting at your office on Saturday sennight. He said that he wished for time to consider of the line which he should adopt in consequence of that letter ; and Mr. Trail,† who delivered his message to me, said that the Attorney-General intended to consult the Duke of Bedford and to write to Lord Grenville upon the subject. I rather think, and so does Trail, that he will remain in office. He was very civil indeed, and declared that, whether he should remain in office or not, he should not be found engaged in any factious hostility against the government.

Since writing this letter, I have received the enclosed report of the proceedings of the Catholic meeting yesterday.

I remain, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[7.].

To John Dunne, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 20th April, 1807.

I laid your letter of the 19th instant before the Duke of Richmond this morning, and I now return the enclosure.

That description of professional promotion to which you must naturally look is a seat upon the bench, in which situation I should be very happy to see you. I think it proper, however, to inform you that government have determined to interfere as little as may be possible in these appointments. As long as this government will continue, the selection of gentlemen to be placed upon the bench will be left to the Lord Chancellor, who will recommend them to government, after communication and consultation with the Lord Chief Justice.

I have great pleasure in announcing this arrangement to you, because I am convinced you will perceive the benefits which the public will derive from it, and because I think it holds out to you

considered that there were several members in the government, including Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Canning, who were favourable to the cause of Roman Catholic emancipation, and that it would not be advisable to embarrass them.

* The Right Hon. William Conyngham Plunket, afterwards well known as Lord Plunket.

† Under Secretary in the Civil Department for Ireland.

the fairest prospect of success in attaining your object. I have also to observe that success after the adoption of this arrangement will be the more flattering, as it will be certain that it can be attributed only to the merit of the person who may acquire it.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

MEMORANDUM.

[8.]

21st April, 1807.

The yeomanry of the following counties to be relieved from permanent duty from * , viz. Leitrim, Longford, Westmeath, Cavan.

Half of the yeomanry of the following counties to be relieved from permanent duty, viz. Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo.

The corps in these counties which are to remain on permanent duty to be fixed in reference to the districts in which disturbances have principally prevailed.

In writing the letters upon this subject, the persons to whom they are addressed to be informed that, as the circumstances no longer exist which had induced the late Lord Lieutenant to call out the yeomanry on permanent duty, and as his Grace the Lord Lieutenant had the fullest reliance on the continuance of the existing tranquillity of the county, he had been induced to order that the * corps of yeomanry might be relieved from permanent duty.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Archdeacon of Dublin.†

[9.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 21st April, 1807.

I have spoken to the Duke of Richmond on the subject which you mentioned to me yesterday, and what follows is the result of my communication with him. No man can have a doubt of the opinion of the clergy of the diocese of Dublin on the events which have occurred in the course of the last weeks, and therefore it does not appear necessary that they should declare it in

* Blank in manuscript.

† Robert Fowler, A.M.

the manner which you had in contemplation. If it be not necessary that the clergy of Dublin should address His Majesty upon this occasion; it is certainly desirable that they should avoid it. It would be difficult, if not impracticable, to frame an address on this subject which would not contain expressions, and in which topics would not be used, from which it is most desirable that this respectable body should at present refrain.

Every man must be desirous that the King's subjects in this country should live in amity with each other; but this great object can never be attained if we do not avoid opportunities which may offer to use language and topics which, however well intended, founded in fact, and well applied, are likely to hurt the feelings of others. On this ground, therefore, I agree in opinion with the Duke of Richmond in expressing a wish that the clergy of Dublin should set the example of moderation upon this occasion, and avoid taking any public notice of what has been passing.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[10.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 23rd April, 1807.

I enclose a copy of a despatch received this morning, at nine o'clock, from General Trench.*

There are two regiments of cavalry and ten battalions of infantry at Cork and in the neighbourhood, which could be assembled at any point in the course of a few hours.

There is a depôt of artillery at Cork, a heavy brigade at Fermoy, and a depôt at Clonmel, about forty miles from Cork, so that there are means of defending that part of the kingdom, if the fleet should turn out to be an enemy. Those best informed in this country, and who have resided longest in it, tell us that they have frequently been alarmed in this manner; and it is possible that the fleet seen may be the homeward-bound West Indiamen, or the transports expected at Cork to carry away the troops ordered to England. All the preparations are made for assembling the troops, if it should turn out otherwise; and the issue of the orders to relieve from permanent duty the yeomanry

* Lieut.-General R. Power Trench, commanding at Cork.

in the hitherto disturbed counties, of which the Duke of Richmond apprised you yesterday, has been suspended till we shall receive further intelligence from the south.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[11.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 23rd April, 1807, 1 P.M.

I have delayed writing to this hour in hopes that I should receive further intelligence from Cork on the subject on which I wrote to you yesterday ; but the post has come in without a letter from General Trench, and I therefore conclude not only that all is quiet in that part, but that he never believed that the fleet which had been seen was an enemy.

I enclose a Cork newspaper, which gives the only account we have to-day relative to this fleet, and I believe that what it contains is true. No news to-day.

I remain, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[12.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 24th April, 1807.

Since I wrote to you yesterday I have received no accounts whatever from Cork ; I therefore conclude that the fleet was of West Indiamen, that they are aware of it at Cork, but that they are so accustomed to such alarms that they have not thought it necessary to relieve the anxiety which we were likely to feel upon the receipt of the first intelligence. All is quiet here. I propose to sail for England on Sunday, unless I should have reason to believe there was some foundation for the report which General Trench sent us the day before yesterday.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Since writing the above the Duke has received your letter of the 22nd, and I open this to tell you that I shall not leave Dublin till I shall hear that you do not intend to dissolve immediately.

[13.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 25th April, 1807.

I have heard nothing from Cork since yesterday ; but I find that General Trench spread the alarm throughout the whole country, and that he has omitted to communicate to anybody the result of any further inquiries which he must have made regarding the intelligence which he sent on the 21st. I have written to him upon this subject, and I hope that neglect of this description will not occur again.

I hope that you have adverted to the state in which the Irish business is in Parliament in considering of the propriety of an immediate dissolution. The Insurrection Bill is most important ; indeed the omission to provide for its continuance, and for that of the other laws of which I gave you a memorandum in London, might alone create a disturbance in this country at the close of the year. Besides these laws, one is necessary to continue the commission which now superintends the paving of the city of Dublin, upon which I spoke to you when in London. I enclose the draft of a bill which has been prepared for this purpose. The Duke of Richmond desired me to tell you that Lord Farnham applied to him for the support of government at the election of a representative Peer, upon the vacancy occasioned by the death of Lord Ross. Lord F. is a man of large property and some influence in the county of Cavan. Lord Kingston has written to me to say that government have promised him their support, of which I am inclined to doubt the truth. I think Lord Clancarty, or possibly the present Lord Ross, is more likely to have your support.

Lord Fingall was with me yesterday. The object of his visit was to acquaint me that there was a person in Dublin who he believed communicated with Arthur O'Connor * at Paris ; and after thanking him for this piece of intelligence, I had a conversation with him nearly to the same purport as that which the Duke had, only more detailed. It is useless to trouble you with the particulars of this communication at present, but I will draw out a report of it, which I will send to you.

I remain, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

P.S. Lord Charleville ought to be applied to to support Lord Ross's friend in the King's County.

* Compromised in the Irish Rebellion, as a delegate from the rebels sent to France to obtain aid from the French Directory.

Lord Kingston to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,

Portland-place, 22nd April, 1807.

There is a vacancy in our peerage by the death of Lord Ross, for which I am a candidate, and have been promised the support of the present administration, and am sure I shall also find a friend in you, and that you will exert yourself in my favour in the situation you hold; and indeed a great deal depends on your exertions, for from experience I know it, having been beaten last time by the exertions of Elliott, your predecessor. I have not the honour of being known to the Duke of Richmond, or should write to him on the occasion, but trust to your friendly offices in that quarter.

Yours most truly,

KINGSTON.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[14.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 27th April, 1807.

The Duke of Richmond writes to you fully to-day on our prospects in the borough elections.

I imagine that the counties will go very nearly as they are, excepting possibly the county of Tipperary. But I shall know more on this subject in a day or two.

I write to you now principally to beg you to send us over the King's letter for the appointment of the Lord Chancellor, as well as mine to belong to the Privy Council.* We expect Lord Manners † on Wednesday, and his arrival before we shall receive the King's letter will be awkward.

It is also necessary that we should have King's letters for the appointment of the Lords of the Treasury and Muster Master-General, and these ought to arrive so that the new appointments might be made before the new elections will begin. Are we to appoint Foster ‡ Chancellor of the Exchequer immediately? For this no King's letter is required.

The Duke writes fully about the vacancy in the representative peerage. Pray let us have your sentiments respecting it as soon as you can, as Lord Leitrim is very active.

I enclose with this a memorandum of the conversation I had with Lord Fingall.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* Sir Arthur Wellesley was sworn in as a Member of the Privy Council of Ireland, 28th April, 1807.

† Lord Chancellor.

‡ The Right Hon. John Foster, the last Speaker of the Irish House of Commons in 1800.

MEMORANDUM.

26th April, 1807.

Lord Fingall called upon me on the 24th at his own desire. He said that he came to inform me that he had reason to believe, from information which he had received in the country, that a treasonable correspondence was carried on by a person in the city of Dublin by the name of * with Arthur O'Connor and other persons at Paris. I told him that I was much obliged to him for the intelligence, and that I should communicate it to the Lord-Lieutenant, who I was certain would be equally grateful. I then turned the conversation to the communication which he had had with the Duke of Richmond some days before, and said that I hoped it had been satisfactory to him. Lord Fingall said that it had been perfectly satisfactory to him, and that he had never entertained a doubt that when the government was entrusted to such persons, it would be administered with kindness and liberality towards all descriptions of persons placed under it.

I then told him that he was not to expect any farther concession; that the present government were determined not to recommend any to the Parliament; but that the existing laws would be administered with mildness and good temper; and that the Roman Catholics would be considered by the government, in all arrangements in which the law allowed that they should be considered, in the same manner as the rest of His Majesty's subjects, according to their respective merits and claims.

Lord Fingall said that there was no doubt whatever that the Union had not produced to Ireland all the benefits† which even the least sanguine friends of that measure had expected; and that the city of Dublin in particular, which all had expected would suffer from it, had suffered considerably. He said that it was natural for the inhabitants of the city to feel a considerable degree of irritation upon every public question, and that they should look for advantages to compensate for their losses wherever they should think they could find them. However, that the questions which had been lately agitated were no longer under consideration; and that it would depend

* Blank in manuscript.

† By this word Lord Fingall did not refer solely to benefits of a political nature, but of all descriptions.

upon circumstances whether they would be brought forward again next year or not.*

In answer, I said that it was not necessary that I should consider whether the advantages which had been lately sought by the Roman Catholics were held out to them or not at the time of the discussions on the Union: all that I had to press upon him was that there was no prospect of success; that the Parliament of England, as far as I had any knowledge of the sentiments of persons in that country, were by a vast majority decidedly adverse to any farther concession; and that it was a question of prudence with those who advised and led the measures of the Roman Catholics whether they ought to persevere in pressing their objects into discussion under such circumstances. I said that former governments might have felt some embarrassment from the discussion of these questions, because the leading persons composing them had been pledged upon these; and they had very naturally been desirous to avoid the discussion, seeing the difficulties which opposed the attainment of the Catholic objects, and had entered into very active negotiations with the Catholics to induce them to refrain from bringing forward their petitions at different times. I then pointed out the situation in which the existing administration stood in respect to the Catholic question, the line which the different members of it had taken upon it, and the indifference which each of them felt whether the question was brought forward or not. I said that all they felt any anxiety about was the tranquillity of Ireland, which might be affected by the discussions here and in England, a subject on which I was convinced that he (Lord Fingall) and the principal Catholic gentlemen were equally anxious. But I observed that this anxiety would not induce us to enter upon any negotiation to stop the discussion of the question, which must be left entirely to their own discretion.

• Lord Fingall said that he was not always able to act upon these subjects as he wished, or as he thought most advantageous for the public, or even for the cause which he had adopted; that he had explained to Mr. Pitt that he had placed himself

* In the course of this part of the conversation Lord Fingall said that he had always been friendly to the Union, even long before it was publicly agitated, and that he thought Ireland had derived some advantage from that measure.

at the head of the Catholics of Ireland in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of more violent men; but that he was not always able to guide them, and in order to retain any influence over them, he was frequently obliged to adopt measures which were imprudent, and of which he disapproved. This being the case, he said that he could not be certain what would be done next year, and could not say anything upon the subject.

I then turned the conversation to the bill which had been brought into the House of Commons by Lord Howick, and pointed out to Lord Fingall that there never had been a measure in Parliament which was less necessary in any practical view of the subject; that we all knew perfectly that there was nothing to prevent a Roman Catholic from serving His Majesty in any part of the world which did not operate equally against any other Dissenter from the Church of England, including the whole Scotch nation and all the Dissenters of England and the north of Ireland; that it was notorious that no officer of the army or navy had been required for many years to take any oath or to qualify in any manner; and that it was equally notorious that there were many Roman Catholic officers in the King's service, and that I knew four, the sons of one Irish Roman Catholic gentleman.

Lord Fingall said that he thought I must be mistaken upon this subject, for that, by desire of Lord Hardwicke, and with the consent of the Duke of York, he had brought his brother over from a foreign service (I think he said the Austrian), and that after he had come to Ireland he was not permitted to raise a regiment, as had been intended and held out to him, and that Lord Hardwicke had never informed him for what reason he had been disappointed.

I said that there was no doubt of the truth of what I had told him; that I had never heard of the circumstances which he had mentioned respecting his brother, and could not form a judgment of the cause of his disappointment; but I concluded it was referable either to the individual himself, or to the injury which others would suffer by bringing him into the army, and certainly not to any point of Catholic policy.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*To the Lord Primate.**

[15.]

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 27th April, 1807.

Your Grace will have been apprised of the death of the Rev. Mr. Upton, who had two livings in the diocese of Meath, that of Kilmoon and that of Piercetown. It is understood here that the latter is in the gift of government, and his Grace the Lord-Lieutenant has desired me to inform your Grace that, if it should meet your approbation, it is his intention to present to the living of Piercetown the gentleman who will be presented by your Grace to that of Kilmoon. I shall, therefore, be obliged to your Grace if you will let me know the name of the person upon whom you will fix to fill that living.

I have the honour to inform your Grace that I have this day received intelligence that the Parliament is to be prorogued to-day, and to be dissolved immediately.†

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. Charles Long.

[16.]

MY DEAR LONG,

Dublin Castle, 28th April, 1807.

Pennefather has promised us the refusal of Cashell; but he has not stated his terms. We shall have Athlone, I believe; but we have not yet seen Justice Day. Wynne has arranged for Sligo with Canning; I don't know whether it is the Secretary of State or not. Lord Portarlington is in England, and the agent who settled for that borough upon the last general election was Mr. Parnell. We have no chance with him, and it would be best to arrange the matter with Lord Portarlington. I heard here that he had sold the return for six years at the last election, and if that should be true, of course we shall not get it now. I have written to Roden, and have desired Henry to settle with Enniskillen. The former is in Scotland, the latter in London. I have desired Lord H. to send to Lord Charleville about

* The Hon. William Stuart, D.D., fifth son of John third Earl of Bute, Prime Minister to King George the Third.

† Parliament was prorogued on the 27th of April; on the 29th of April an Order in Council directed writs to be issued for convening a new Parliament, which were returnable on the 22nd June, 1807.

Carlow. Tell Henry to make me acquainted with the price of the day.

In respect to counties, Falkiner and Hamilton are, I think, secure for Dublin. I don't propose to try a second member for the city. I think we should not succeed; we should have a riot in the city for a month; we should put Shaw to great expense, and possibly we might lose his election. In the present temper of Ireland, I consider it a great object to keep this city quiet. Lloyd will carry his election for the King's County, I believe, without opposition. Wynne has opened a little about the county of Sligo, and has thoughts of joining himself to Cooper against O'Hara. Newcomen will start for Longford, for which county I imagine that Sir Thomas Fetherston must withdraw. If we could prevail upon Lord Longford to start his brother for that county with Newcomen, we should beat out Lord Forbés.

I conclude that Ely will come over to organize a contest in Wexford, and Kingston and Lord Longueville another in the county of Cork. By the bye, Lord Portsmouth's interest in Wexford ought to be got for Ely. Lord Waterford will try a member for Dungarvan, and will probably succeed; Lord O'Neill one for Carrickfergus; and I think it probable that Lord Abercorn may attempt a second for the county of Donegal. We can expect no other alteration.

I wish that we could hear what government propose to do upon the election of a representative Peer. Lord Leitrim is very active in his canvass here, and Lord Kingston in England. If government should not support the latter, and he should persevere, we shall find it difficult to carry the election; and you may depend upon it that if government should ever be pressed at one of these elections, they will thenceforward be expensive.

I remain, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

P.S. Since writing this letter, Sir Thomas Fetherston has been with me, and he has got Lady Ross's interest in Longford, and proposes to stand; Newcomen will stand likewise. If Lord Longford will give the disposal of his interest to us, I think we shall kick out Lord Forbes; Lord Roden not to be paid for his seat.

The Right Hon. Charles Long to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR WELLESLEY,

House of Commons, 21st April, 1807.

There is no notice yet given of any other motion, but it is reported that there is to be to-day. Odell has attended and voted with us; the Boltons are decidedly against; French with, but very pressing; Rochfort and W. Smyth, with O'Hara, stayed away the first night, but voted against, on the second. As to ———'s English peerage, I conceive you should give no hopes. The claims are so numerous that it has been thought best to defer at least the granting of any. Send over C. Beresford, Sir G. Hill, and Sir T. Fetherston. Lord Boyle is reported to be against us.

Foster has at length accepted the office of Chancellor of Exchequer, and I am going to the Duke's to settle with him, Castlereagh, and Hawkesbury the other offices, as far as we can without you. The Duke is much disposed to replace Lord Drogheda; ——— begs he may be put to the Post-office in his stead. Let me know on what day you shall be here, and I will communicate to you anything that occurs. Excuse haste.

Yours very sincerely,

C. LONG.

The Right Hon. Charles Long to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR WELLESLEY,

Pay-office, Whitehall, 24th April, 1807.

Hawkesbury's letter will of course have detained you in Dublin. The dissolution takes place on Monday next, so that you have no time to lose in making your engagements. You will of course see as soon as you can Pennecfather respecting Cashell, Judge Day* respecting Tralee, and Hancock respecting Athlone. I believe they all sell to the best bidder. Lord Portarlington has been written to respecting that borough, but you would do well to take steps about it.

From what I hear, the Ponsonby interest may be shaken in the county of Cork and at Dungarvan; and I understand also, if immediate steps are taken, and if Bolton or Alcock oppose Sir J. Newport at Waterford, they would succeed against him; but the latter, I believe, means to offer himself elsewhere. Mr. Lloyd, brother-in-law of Sir L. Parsons, intends offering himself for the King's County; the other member (Bernard) assures me he is with us, and begs I will endeavour to get Pole's interest for him. Marsden you know is here. I think he might be useful in the elections; he is well disposed to us, but he has his objects, which I shall hereafter explain to you.

Yours most sincerely,

C. LONG.

You shall hear from me again soon.

* Judge Day was father-in-law to Sir Edward Denny, the proprietor of the borough of Tralee.

*The Marquess of Sligo to Sir Arthur Wellesley.*DEAR SIR,¹

Grafton-street, London, 25th April, 1807.

I am honoured with a letter from you, in which you are so good as to inform me that his Grace the Lord Lieutenant was pleased to accede to my request of conferring upon my friend one of the vacant offices of Surveyor-General. I beg you will do me the favour of expressing to his Grace the high sense I feel of his goodness to me, not only in giving to me the office, but in the readiness with which he was so extremely kind to take me into his consideration. I wish it may be in my power to do adequate services; zeal at least shall not be wanting; indeed I doubt if there be one man whose heart and mind are more sincerely embarked in the cause than mine are, connecting it, as I must do, however unparliamentary the expressing of it, with the peace and comfort of our most excellent and beloved Sovereign. Though our majorities in both Houses have been fully up to our expectations, we have rumours of differences that make us, who are not informed as to facts, very uneasy and uncomfortable. The Northumberlands, I conclude, you have heard are gone from us, and my friend Ormond, a very honourable and loyal man, also has voted against us; I know not why, but I am sure he may be got back, and that it is only some trifling misunderstanding which some one has laid hold of to mislead him. The feelings of the King alone, I think, would weigh with him very deeply in his line of politics.

The Irish members in general are well with us. But of all those that I least understand is Lord Hardwicke. His intention, I know, was to have supported administration, except on Lord Stafford's motion, which he connected with his journey to Windsor, and yet he expressed himself so strongly in the House of Lords that he quite committed himself, I fear.

Charles Yorke is gone out of town; his mind is with us. I hope before you leave Ireland you will take care of the elections in the event of a new Parliament, recollecting that if it takes place, as we now suppose it will, in course of the summer, all the returning officers are *hostile*.

Mayo is perfectly secure, I think, and Galway is within reach; all we want is a proper candidate to whom success could be insured. Both the present members are against government. Canning told my brother that he would be at liberty in a week, and might by that time leave London probably. His being in Ireland will be very necessary for many important purposes. If I can be of use here, you will give me the highest gratification by having me called upon.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir, with great respect,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

SLIGO.

*To Lord Mulgrave.**

[17.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 28th April, 1807.

Lord Farnham has requested me to ask you to promote a relation of his, Mr. John James Maxwell, who has served his time as a midshipman, and is now a sub-lieutenant in the *Haughty* gun-brig, now in the *Plata* with Admiral Stirling. I make this request not only because Lord Farnham really deserves the countenance of government, but because it is very desirable that the gentlemen of this country should be sensible that their views and interests will not be neglected, particularly if they should recommend persons really deserving promotion and reward.

Believe me, my dear Lord,

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Castlereagh.† •

[18.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 28th April, 1807.

The first thing I did, upon my arrival in Ireland, was to inquire respecting the proposed removal of the barracks from Strabane to Lifford. Nothing had been done, although the measure had been determined on; and as soon as the Duke of Richmond arrived I spoke to him on the subject, and received his directions to prevent the proposed removal of the barracks. I have done so accordingly; and if new barracks should be built in that part of Ireland, they will be fixed at Strabane.

Long will speak to you about Lord Roden's seat. I have desired Henry to settle for Enniskillen's.

I have written to Henry about a seat for myself. Of course, I should wish not to pay much money for one; but it would be impossible to go over to stand for Ipswich.

I remain, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* Henry third Lord, a General officer in the army, and created an Earl in 1812. His son is the present Marquess of Normanby.

† Eldest son of Robert first Earl of Londonderry, who was created a Marquess in 1816.

Lord Castlereagh to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR WELLESLEY,

London, 25th April, 1807.

I conclude the dissolution will make it difficult for you to leave Ireland at present. Sir F. Hammond spoke to me to-day about Ipswich, and seemed clear you could come in there at a moderate expense. I fear, however, your presence would be requisite, and there seems hardly a chance of this. Sir E. O'Brien's brother wrote to me about the seat at [15] Ennis, which belongs to Sir Edward, who has always voted against us, and seemed to wish to come in for it himself to support. I conclude he has some arrangement in view, and I have referred him to you. Enniskillen told me you might recommend to his seat at Enniskillen; he will, however, expect its value. ———'s seat for Dundalk may be had: as he presses his brother's claims to a bishopric, he ought not to be suffered to sell.

I find upon inquiry that no orders whatever were sent to India relative to military preparations; the despatch was sent to the India House, but recalled. I hope our strength in the Plata, when Crauford arrives, will be adequate to the reduction of the province of Buenos Ayres; but it is plain we cannot get on upon the mere principle of conquest and military occupancy.

There are two or three points I shall trouble you with in a day or two; in the mean time I have only to beg that the new barracks may be at Strabane, as formerly, instead of Lifford. I apprehend there is no military advantage whatever in the change, and I am sure it is quite essential to our connection with Abercorn that he should not be disappointed in this point.

I fear we have made a bad figure at the Dardanelles. We are yet without details. There are reports of bad news from India, but without foundation.

Yours ever, my dear W., most sincerely,

CASTLEREAGH.

Ormond is against us. I fear so is Lord Shannon.

[19.]

*To the Hon. Henry Wellesley.**

MY DEAR HENRY,

29th April, 1807.

A man has offered me a seat for Wallingford; let me know who shall be returned for it. There may be a disappointment. Names for the following boroughs: Cashell, Tralee, Enniskillen; Athlone possibly. A name for Athlone, in case we should have the return.

No answer from Roden. Probable we shall return for Dundalk: a name for that borough; also for Carlow, if Lord H. should have settled with Lord Carlow.

* Afterwards Sir Henry Wellesley and Lord Cowley.

Tell Lord Palmerston to give me his interest for Sligo, and desire his agent, Henry Stewart, to do as I order him.

I remain, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Westmoreland.

[20.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 29th April, 1807.

I received your letter respecting ———, which I have sent to Long, as all the Irish arrangements are to be settled in London, and he will converse with Lord Hawkesbury upon ———'s objects. If I should see ——— while I shall remain in Ireland, I will tell him how anxious government are to forward his wishes. I imagine a peerage is out of the question ; but I am endeavouring to form a party in his favour in the county of ———.

I remain, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Lord Hawkesbury to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,

London, 27th April, 1807.

Westmoreland is very desirous that ——— should be satisfied. I think the Treasury is a very fair offer to him ; but if you can manage between him and ——— as to the two offices of the Treasury and Muster-master, I have no objection. ———'s office, as well as Foster's, must depend upon their bringing themselves into Parliament. This is a rule as to political situations to which it is most important to adhere as far as possible.

The impression in this country is more favourable than could be expected, and proves to us every day the wisdom of the decision which has led to immediate dissolution. In Hampshire the opposition candidates have declined ; there are hopes that Fawkes will not stand again for Yorkshire, and that Lascelles may come in without much difficulty.

I conclude that your alarm has ended in nothing. It was scarcely possible that Bonaparte should have thought of sending out an expedition at this time. When you have leisure to turn your attention to the military state of Ireland, I shall be very anxious to have your opinion as to the present state of the defence of the country, whether by any means you can suggest the regular army could be safely diminished, what new means of recruiting appear to remain untried, and what your judgment is of the value of the volunteer force.

Believe me to be with great truth,

My dear Sir Arthur, very sincerely yours,

HAWKESBURY.

[21.]

To ———.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 30th April, 1807.

I send you a letter from Lord W., and I have to inform you that I have received directions to recommend ——— to be appointed a Lord of the Treasury. When I had the pleasure of seeing you in town, you expressed a repugnance to that office, and your wish to be either at the Post Office, or Joint Muster Master-General. The former is out of the question, and I have already informed you of the circumstances attending the latter, which render it an office very little desirable. It is possible, however, that it may still be got for you; and I wish to know from you, without loss of time, whether you or your son is to be appointed to office at the Treasury supposing it to be impossible to make you Joint Muster Master-General; or Joint Muster Master-General, supposing it to be possible to get that office for you. I beg to assure you of the sincere disposition of the government to gratify your wishes as far as may be practicable; but it will not be possible to give two parliamentary offices to your family upon the present occasion, and you must choose whether you or your son shall be appointed to that office which it may be possible to give you.

I have done and shall continue to do everything in my power to forward your views in the county of ———, and I most sincerely wish you success.

Believe me ever your most faithful servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Pray send back the messenger as soon as possible.

[22.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 2nd May, 1807.

After I had written to you on the 30th I wrote to ———, by desire of the Duke of Richmond, to request that he would inform me whether he or his son was to be the Lord of the Treasury. I told him that it was possible that we might get the office of Joint Muster-Master for him, and I asked him whether he or his son was to have that office in the event of our succeeding in attaining that object. I did this in consequence of the Duke's proposition to your Lordship that ———

might go to the Treasury or be Commander-in-Chief of Fencibles, according to the arrangement which I had proposed to you in my letter. I enclose ———'s answer, from which you will observe that he wishes to *filch* a promise from us which we never intended to make, and my reply. I shall be obliged to you if you will settle this affair as I have proposed in my letter to ———, of this date, that is, make him Muster-Master, if you can give him that office, or his son Lord of the Treasury, if you cannot.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c., &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To ———.

[23.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 2nd May, 1807.

I have this instant received your letter of the 1st, and I am much concerned that it did not contain a positive answer to the question in mine of the 30th April. I have already had the honour of apprising you that the Duke of Richmond was unwilling to engage for the disposal of any bishopric, and he is particularly unwilling to enter into such an engagement in order to entice you to accept an office which he has reason to believe would be agreeable to you. All that he can do is to assure you that when a bishopric will become vacant, your son's claim to preferment shall be considered with those of others.

In respect to the office of Joint Muster-Master, I told you in mine of the 30th April "that it was possible that it might be got for you," and I have written by express to London to request that, if it be possible, you may be appointed to that office. If it should not be possible, of course your son will be appointed a Lord of the Treasury.

Ever, dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[24.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 4th May, 1807.

Lord Castlereagh has written to me in a very pressing manner respecting the arrangement for ———, with the nature

of which you are acquainted. A promise was made to him by Mr. Pitt that he should be appointed Constable of ———, and Long was desired to make an arrangement for a reasonable provision for ———, the present holder of that office, and to perform that promise without loss of time. ——— pressed for its performance when the administration was formed, and after a discussion at your office, and one with the Duke of Richmond, I promised him that the arrangement should be carried into execution, and he voted with us. He is now going to his election at ———, and he wishes that it should be done before the election, a wish which I think reasonable enough.

Lord Castlereagh proposes that, under the general arrangement made by government respecting all persons holding offices the tenure of which is compatible with a seat in Parliament, we should call upon ——— to come into Parliament and support us, or resign if he should not do so. You know that ——— is a friend of Lord ———'s, and for his sake, as well as for ———'s, I should be sorry to be the instrument of pressing upon him to incur an expense which was not in contemplation when the office was given to him, and to take a step which would risk its tenure. In my opinion, the thing to do would be to negotiate immediately with Lord ———, as from yourself, upon a compensation for ———. The whole of the office is 765*l.* per annum Irish, with deductions, which may reduce it to about 700*l.* Irish.

The whole of our pensions for the year are unappropriated, and I know of no arrangement which has been made or was ever in contemplation for the appropriation of them, excepting 400*l.* per annum to Mr. ———. We may want a sum for ——— to entice him to resign the ——— militia to Colonel ———, and ——— has asked for a pension for his wife, which may be deferred to a future year.

I should recommend that a pension might be offered to ——— for his own life, or that of his wife, of the amount of 400*l.* this year upon the Irish establishment, and that you should take the remainder upon yourselves in England, or that you should promise him the remainder in Ireland next year, and leave him this year upon ———.

——— is very fair upon the arrangement. If he get the office before the election, he is willing to take ——— upon himself till he can be provided for, and on this ground he very

fairly claims an immediate performance of the promise. I wish that you would endeavour to arrange this matter, and let us have the answer to the official recommendation which I send with this express before the election for ——— will commence. This will be on Thursday sevensnight.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Upon inquiry I find that there is no occasion for a King's letter for the appointment of Constable of ———; that officer has usually been appointed by warrant from the Lord-Lieutenant. All that we want, therefore, to complete this arrangement is your answer to this letter.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[25.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 6th May, 1807.

I am sorry to tell you that I have just learned that the Attorney-General means to resign his office. He has written me a very civil letter on the subject, which I have sent out to the Park to the Duke, or I should transmit it to you. I understand that he has been influenced to take this step by Lord Grenville, who told him that he considered him engaged to go all lengths with them. Plunket is much distressed upon the occasion.

I will see the Chancellor this evening, if I can, upon the measures to be adopted. Saurin would be the fittest and most popular successor; but it is doubtful if he would accept, and the offer might hurt the feelings of the Solicitor-General. We know your sentiments upon the whole of this subject, and you may depend on our acting in conformity to them.

I have commenced a long letter to you on our military state, which I have been prevented from finishing; but I hope to be able to send it to you to-morrow.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[26.]

To Lord Clarina.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 6th May, 1807.

In reference to the different conversations which I have had with you and other leading interests in the county of Limerick, I cannot but express the great desire which I have, in common with the Lord-Lieutenant, to keep the county of Limerick in tranquillity. I am, therefore, very desirous that you should avoid, if possible, encouraging any opposition to the late members, which I am perfectly convinced cannot succeed.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[27.]

To the Hon. Henry Wellesley.

MY DEAR HENRY,

Dublin Castle, 6th May, 1807.

I have seen Roden this day about his borough. It is engaged for one more session to Lord Stair, under an old sale for years, and he must return Lord Stair's friend unless Lord Stair should consent to sell his interest in the borough for the session which remains, upon which subject he has written to him.

Robinson has the return for Carlow, and Canning that for Sligo, and we don't know yet whether Mr. Handcock will return himself, or give us the return.

Portarlington was sold at the late general election for a term of years, as I understand, so that we have the returns of Tralee, Cashell, and Enniskillen, as I informed you in a former letter.

I have received your letter of the 2nd relative to my return.

Ever yours,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[28.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 7th May, 1807.

You have desired to have my opinion on the state of our military establishments in this country, and on different points connected with them;* and although the subject is one of great extent, and I have not had much opportunity or time to consider it, I will endeavour in this letter to give you all the

* See letter from Lord Hawkesbury of 27th April, 1807, *ante*, p. 23.

information upon it which the attention which I have given to it has enabled me to acquire. If you should approve of my principles and opinions, it will be no difficult task hereafter to enter upon details.

The first point to which I will draw your attention is the general military system adopted in Ireland with a view to its defence. All those who have considered this subject appear to agree in the following propositions, although they differ in opinion upon many questions of detail: That Ireland is assailable by the enemy on all parts of its southern, its western, and its northern coast; that in case it should be attacked by a body of the enemy sufficiently large to give employment to a large proportion of the regular troops, the people in all parts of the country would rise in rebellion; that Ireland must ultimately depend for its defence upon the resources of men and military equipments which it should receive from Great Britain.

There appears only one remedy for the evil stated in the first proposition. A system of fortification upon the coasts of Ireland; such as that which has been carried into execution on the coasts of Kent and Sussex, would not answer for many obvious reasons, even if the country could bear its expense, and therefore the best measure would be to establish a naval station in Bantry Bay. By the adoption of this measure you would at all times have a fleet upon your most vulnerable point, and you would give to the coasts of this country the only general defence which they are capable of receiving. I believe also that a naval establishment at Bantry Bay would answer for many other general purposes.

I consider the evil stated in the second proposition to be one of much greater magnitude than the vulnerable state of the coasts. If the event supposed should occur, the operations which the British army would have to carry on would be of the nature of those in an enemy's country in which the hostility of the people would be most active. In this view of the question I consider it only in reference to military operations, and I am sorry to say that throughout this whole country I do not find one point on which, as a military man, I could rest with security. If we should collect our army to oppose an invading enemy, we have not a secure dépôt of provisions or military stores, we have not a magazine, we have not a place of any description of which the rebels of the country might not, and

would not, take possession when under the direction of French officers. In this situation the army would be obliged to carry on its operations, and risk all upon the event of one battle. Its communications, if indeed it should have any place to communicate with, would be cut off, and its supply of provisions would depend upon what it would get day by day from a country the inhabitants of which would be in a state of inveterate hostility. This picture is by no means exaggerated. Let those who think that the yeomanry and loyal inhabitants would keep down the rebels in the country in case of the occurrence of the event supposed, consider what would be the state of Ireland even at this moment, or at any other moment, if the regular troops were withdrawn. How much more probable is it that the evils which I have supposed would exist if an enemy's army were landed in the country! But admitting it to be true that the loyal inhabitants and yeomanry could do much to protect the country and to assist the operations of the army, it will be clear that their efforts would be rendered much more effectual by the adoption of the measure which I propose.

I lay it down as decided that Ireland, in a view to military operations, must be considered as an enemy's country, and this view of our situation will point out what we ought to have for our security. Fortified places in different parts of the country would give the degree of security which we could hope for in the situation of affairs which I have supposed may exist.

By the term fortified places, I do not mean defensive positions which the army might take up in case the enemy should land in the country, because I suspect that those will be found to be entirely useless; but I mean certain determined points where the magazines and stores might be deposited in safety, situated on the lines of defence to be taken with a view to the different points which may be attacked by the enemy. I have not yet sufficiently considered the subject, and am not sufficiently acquainted with the details, to be enabled to state the number or the situation of these places; but upon a rough view of the subject, and considering Dublin, for the reasons which I shall state presently, as the point of communication with England, I think that a place of this description in each of the provinces of Ulster, Munster, and Connaught, and two in Leinster, on the lines of defence from the Shannon, would answer all the purposes which I have in view.

Whenever a subject of this kind is considered, the expense attending it is a material part of the consideration. According to my notions on the subject, I might perhaps omit to advert to it, for I really consider a measure of this description to be indispensable ; I am convinced that unless we should adopt it, Great-Britain will lose her dominion in Ireland as soon as the French are enabled to attack us in such numbers as to employ a large proportion of our regular force. But the expense would not be very large, and would be incurred only gradually in a long course of years. The kind of place that I would recommend should be of the second or third order of fortification. We must consider that they are not liable to an immediate attack. According to my notions they would not be attacked unless the enemy should be able to land in Ireland in such force as to beat our army. In the present state of their maritime equipments this is not a very probable event, although it is by no means improbable that they may land in sufficient force to give employment to a very large proportion of our army. In the construction of these places, and in the expense to be incurred, we may safely calculate upon the existing chance that they will not be attacked ; and considering the deficiency of means for carrying on a siege in this country, excepting in our own possession, and that that deficiency must be supplied from France and must occasion increased difficulty and embarrassment in the equipment of any expedition to Ireland, we may venture to calculate that the means which our enemy will have to employ in the reduction of these places will not be equal to those which have been employed in the reduction of strong places in different parts of the continent of Europe. In the construction of these places, therefore, we might almost limit ourselves to the case that they shall not be liable to be carried by a *coup, de main*, and shall not be reduced excepting by the adoption of the regular and protracted operations of a siege.

But the expense to be incurred, whatever may be its amount, will not be thrown away even if that event should never occur in the contemplation of which I recommend that the places should be constructed. They would at all times give to the British government a secure footing in this country. They will enable you to maintain yourselves here in ordinary times at a smaller expense of men than you must incur if things should continue as they are ; they will give additional security and con-

fidence to the friends of the British government, the Protestants, and the loyal of all descriptions; they will give a check to the spirit of revolution and rebellion which prevails among the disloyal, by pointing out to them clearly the impracticability and small chance of success of their plans; and in case of invasion or serious rebellion, they will be a rallying point and support to the operations of the yeomanry and others who might be employed in keeping the peace of those parts of the country not the immediate seat of the operations of the armies.

I now come to consider the last proposition in which I have said we all agree, viz., that we must depend for support upon Great Britain. In our present state it is obvious that in the event of serious invasion and rebellion, which all agree would occur at the same moment, it is impossible to say where we should be secure, and where otherwise: all that we can pretend is that we should be secure where we should be in strength, and that we should command the ground which we should occupy with our troops. It may be necessary to risk an immediate action with the enemy, and in order to secure the result of that action the point of our communication with Great Britain, Dublin, may be weakened. There is no doubt that in such a case there are persons ready to take possession of that city. The same event would occur if, unfortunately, the army should not be successful; and considering the command which the counties of Kildare, Wicklow, and Meath have over Dublin, I think the same event would occur if the operations of the army against the enemy should be protracted. The consequence would be that the troops which might be sent from England, as a reinforcement to the army in Ireland, would have to force their landing; and most probably, when landed, would be able to do no more than maintain themselves in their landing place till the arrival of fresh reinforcements.

It may be asked, why fix upon Dublin as the point of connection between the two countries? and it may be said that other places do not labour under the same inconveniences. I answer, that as far as I have information all parts of Ireland are equally liable to the effects of disaffection to the English government and rebellion, and none enjoy the advantages of Dublin for the purpose. It is now the seat of government, and the principal magazines and stores of the army are here. The counties round Dublin are plentiful. The communications from

Dublin are good. It is in the centre of the east coast of Ireland. The passage from Liverpool, where government would find all the conveniences for the transportation of troops, is short; and in case supplies should be required from England for the army in Ireland, Lancashire and the neighbouring counties could afford them. To secure this point of connection, Dublin requires only what every other place in Ireland would, if used for the same purpose: that is a fortification by which not only the landing-place, but the city itself would be kept.

I shall not now enter upon the details of such a work. I conceive that many plans might be executed at no very great expense, which would answer all the purposes which I have in view; and there can be no doubt that such a work would be necessary in the expectation of the occurrence of the event which throughout this letter I have considered probable.

But considering the peculiarly disaffected temper of the people of Dublin, and the means which they have in Kildare, Meath, and Wicklow of attempting to carry their plans into execution when they please, I am of opinion that we ought to place the seat of this government in security, even if we had reason to expect that no serious invasion of Ireland could ever be made. Let any man look at Emmett's account of his plans and his operations, and contemplate the temper of the people of Dublin, and the means which the leading rebels have of carrying their plans into execution, and he will see clearly that we depend much more upon their discretion than upon anything else. However vigilant and active we may be, we must be liable to surprise, from the nature of the people who are employed to give us intelligence. An accident in Dublin might have the most serious consequences throughout this country, and this accident could not occur if we had here a place of security for our stores, &c.

I shall conclude this part of the subject by telling you that I am positively convinced that no political measure which you could adopt would alter the temper of the people of this country. They are disaffected to the British government; they don't feel the benefits of their situation; attempts to render it better either do not reach their minds, or they are represented to them as additional injuries; and in fact we have no strength here but our army. Surely it is incumbent upon us to adopt every means

which can secure the position and add to the strength of our army.

In respect to the other points on which you have called for my opinion, I have to tell you that I have a very good opinion of the yeomanry of Ireland in general. They say that there are some disaffected persons, and even corps among them, but I have seen no proofs of the truth of this assertion. They are disciplined as well as corps of this description can be expected to be, and I doubt very much the policy of attempting to make any improvements in their discipline. I think that both in England and Ireland we have attempted too much in the way of teaching parade discipline to the yeomanry and volunteers. In the event of operations in these countries we should be greatly in want of light troops, particularly infantry of the description of these troops. The parade discipline which they receive in large bodies would be entirely useless, nay, would embarrass them when they would be called upon to act as light troops; and I would therefore leave them as they are, in detached companies of various strength throughout the country. The inconvenience resulting generally from this organization would not be felt here, as through the military department of my office we have the yeomanry completely in our hands. We have in every county what is called a brigade-major, in some counties two; but in reality he is an inspector or superintendent of yeomanry, and through him we manage the whole concern with as much facility as any other military establishment is managed. The only improvement which I can suggest to this system is the establishment in Ireland of three or four inspectors general of yeomanry.

The objects of this establishment should be to enable government to have a more active control over the brigade-majors of the yeomanry than they have at present; to have persons on whom they can rely to send into the different provinces to inquire and inspect into the state of efficiency, the discipline, and the general loyalty of the different corps; and occasionally to inquire and report upon circumstances of misconduct, of which complaints may come from the country. I would make no other improvement; and I deprecate inspecting field officers and brigadiers general, who would only create confusion, excepting two or three of the latter.

In respect to the militia, the general opinion here is that they

are disaffected, that as a military body they are not to be relied upon, and that they ought to be disbanded or removed from the country. I cannot say whether this opinion is well or ill founded; I know that they are liable to great temptations, that at this moment plans are in agitation to prevent them from volunteering into the line, and that the same persons (the priests) might equally endeavour to attain any other object by their influence over their minds. However, to disband them is out of the question, it is equally impossible to remove them from Ireland, and we must endeavour to find out the means of making them better troops by removing them from the temptation which affects their discipline and their loyalty, and by the establishment of a better system among them.

Lord Harrington* has already proposed to government the erection of new permanent barracks to a large extent. This measure is absolutely necessary; the temporary barracks throughout this country are very bad indeed, not fit for the service, injurious to the health and discipline of the troops, and vastly expensive. I would go farther than he has proposed; and in carrying his system into execution I would remove the barracks from the towns; I would have each barrack sufficiently large to contain at least a battalion, and I would place the barracks at such a distance from each other as that the general officers might with convenience superintend and improve the interior discipline of the battalions under their command. By the adoption of these means we might make the Irish militia excellent troops.

I now come to the regular army, and the only question is, how we shall increase it? I suspect that the supply from the militia will soon fail, as well for the reasons to which I have above referred, as because some of the regiments have not yet completed the number which they gave to the line at the commencement of the war, and none have completed the numbers which they gave last year. However, I have urged the colonels to recruit with activity. A proposal has been made to me by a colonel of militia to draft from that body nine battalions, to be commanded and officered by the officers of the militia, and to be disposable for service in Europe during the war. I will send the plan to Lord Castlereagh. The objections I have to it are,

* Charles Earl of Harrington, General and Commander of the Forces in Ireland.

that I think the militia officers would not be able to organize and render efficient the battalions which would thus be drafted; and that we should by this measure entirely destroy the militia in Ireland, and the source from which we have drawn 3000 men a year, supposing that that source should still continue its supply. In respect to other means of recruiting, I know of none to which we can resort, excepting to employ more persons on the recruiting service. The serjeants of yeomanry might do much in this way; and I would go farther, and hold out not only to them but to any man a reward who would bring to the inspectors of recruits a man willing to enlist: in this way some recruits might be got.

From what I have already said, you will see that I am of opinion that we cannot spare soldiers from this country. The adoption of the system of fortification would certainly enable you to maintain us in Ireland with a smaller body of troops; but, till it is completed, it would not have that effect.

You might gain two or three battalions by sending from Ireland the troops for the relief of the East and West Indies, and America, and by assembling in Ireland all the troops intended for expeditions to the westward or the southward. While these troops would be in this country other troops might be drawn from it for the continental service, and a regular system of foreign reliefs would feed the service here. But the number which you could withdraw permanently would not exceed what I have above stated.

I beg pardon for troubling you at such length, but I have thought it best to consider the whole subject, and I shall rejoice if my ideas can be of any use to you.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[29.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 8th May, 1807.

Since I wrote to you on the day before yesterday respecting the Attorney-General's resignation, I have had some reason to hope that I should still keep Plunket in his office; but I have been disappointed. I have some reason to believe that if the

office should be offered to Saurin, he will accept it; and it appears to be the general opinion here that this would be the most desirable appointment. The Chancellor thinks that Burke may feel a little jealousy if he should be superseded by Saurin; but I am of opinion that the Chancellor's apprehensions are not very well founded; and even if they were, I think the appointment of such a man as Saurin ought to be made, though at the expense of a little jealousy and ill-temper in the mind of Burke.

I therefore propose to make the offer to Saurin, taking care, however, to keep Burke in the best temper that I can. It might be desirable that you should send me a letter from Lord Redesdale to Burke, to be delivered in case I should find it necessary.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

P.S. Since writing the above, I have overcome the principal difficulty in the appointment of Saurin. Burke has just been with me, and I told him fairly that the government wished that Saurin should be the Attorney-General, on which he answered, in the most fair and liberal manner, that he could not think of himself in competition with Saurin, and that he should be perfectly satisfied to serve as Solicitor under Saurin. I then informed him that if Saurin did not accept the office, he was to have it.

A. W.

To the Right Hon. W. C. Plunket.

[30.]

DEAR SIR,

8th May, 1807.

I have laid your letter of the 5th before the Duke of Richmond, and his Grace has desired me to express his concern that you should have thought it necessary to resign your office.

It appeared to his Grace and to me that you did not entertain sentiments upon any political question affecting this country or Great Britain inconsistent with those entertained by some of His Majesty's Ministers, and by many who support them; and we had reason to believe that you felt no hostility towards the persons now at the head of His Majesty's government in England or in this country, and that you had no disinclination to render those services for which you are so

peculiarly qualified. Under these circumstances, the Duke desired me to make you the offer of continuing in your office. We did not desire you to abandon any political opinion which you had ever entertained; we did not ask you to come into Parliament; all we suggested was that you should withdraw yourself from party politics in which it is to be regretted that you were ever involved, and that you would give us and the country the benefit of your advice and assistance in your office of Attorney-General.

I cannot avoid taking this opportunity of expressing my concern that we should be deprived of this advantage.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Right Hon. W. C. Plunket to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR SIR,

5th May, 1807.

After the very kind manner in which you have been so good as to indulge me with time to consider the propriety of my continuing in office, it is very painful to me to be obliged to decline the honour which is offered to me. I must beg to assure you that my conduct does not proceed from anything inconsistent with the highest respect for His Majesty's government and for the individuals who compose it; but were I to subject myself to the imputation of inconsistency, I should lose my own good opinion and cease to be capable of rendering valuable services to His Majesty.

May I request of you to express to His Grace the Lord Lieutenant my deep sense of the kindness with which he has honoured me, and to assure him that he may command my best services in promoting the quiet and tranquillity of His Majesty's government in Ireland.

Believe me to be, my dear Sir,

Your very faithful and obedient servant,

W. C. PLUNKET.

[31.

To John Baywell, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 8th May, 1807.

I have received your letters of 2nd, 3rd, and 5th, and I delayed to answer the last till I should receive that of the 2nd, which reached me only yesterday.

I have been endeavouring, hitherto without success, to find out the means of providing for Mr. Jephson, as the Lord-Lieutenant cannot allow of his removal till provision will be made for him; but you may depend upon it that, as soon as that can be done, he shall be removed, and a person recommended by

you shall be appointed. You are authorised to say this when and where your discretion may suggest; and if you should wish it, you shall have a letter from me upon the subject, which you may show to anybody.

In the mean time the Duke has desired me to tell you that he does not propose to carry his forbearance so far as to allow Mr. Jephson to use the influence which his office may give him in the county of Tipperary against you with impunity; and if there should be any evidence whatever of his attempt to exercise such influence, he will forthwith be dismissed, and no provision made for him.

I have done and continue to do everything in my power for you. You need fear nothing from Lady Clive. I understand that Lord Clive's principal tenant is your steady friend.

I think that if you were to try the Holmeses yourself, you might be able to secure one of their votes. They appeared displeased that you should have made your application through me, and you will do well to try now to neutralize them. They have promised Prettie one vote.

I have sent for Mr. Waller, and if his office should not be of very great value, I believe I have now the means of obliging him.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*To Lieut.-Colonel W. J. Gordon.**

[32.]

MY DEAR COLONEL,

Dublin Castle, 9th May, 1807.

I have intended to write to you for several days past, but I have been prevented by other business. I wished particularly to consult you upon the propriety of my forwarding, to be laid before His Royal Highness the Duke of York, any applications which might be made to the government here for military commissions or promotion. In fact, the Irish gentlemen have now but a small share of the advantages of the military profession, and I think that it would add much to the strength and popularity of the government, and might soften much of the ill temper still remaining in the country on account of the Union, if we were enabled to hold out some hopes that our applications for military favours would be attended to. I wish that you would turn this subject

* Military Secretary to the Duke of York; afterwards Sir Willoughby Gordon.

over in your mind and talk to His Royal Highness upon it, and make me acquainted with his sentiments. At the same time I beg you will assure him that neither the Duke of Richmond nor I will ever take advantage of the disposition His Royal Highness may feel to attend to our recommendation, to do anything which may be injurious to the army.

One application of this description which we have already received is from Lord Clarina to be a Brigadier-General on the staff. I don't know much of him as an officer, but he has produced testimonials of his good conduct, particularly from the Duke of Gloucester. He belongs to a family much respected in this country, and this appointment would give very general satisfaction.

Another is from Mr. Adderley, that his brother, Captain Adderley, who is Brigade-Major to Lord Conyngham, may be put upon full pay in a garrison battalion, or any other that His Royal Highness may please. It is desirable that this should be done.

Two gentlemen have applied for Ensigncies for their sons. One of them is Mr. Fenton, who is a gentleman of the county of Sligo, and has been very active in suppressing the disturbances in that county; the other is Mr. Baker, a gentleman residing in the county of Dublin, who was very active in the late rebellion in Ireland, for his son Mr. Henry Baker.

Believe me, my dear Colonel,

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR GENERAL,

Horse Guards, 14th May, 1807.

I hasten to acknowledge your private letter of the 9th, received only this day, in which you are good enough to consult me upon the propriety of forwarding to be laid before the Duke such applications as may be made to the government of Ireland for military commissions or promotion.

In reply to this question I cannot have the least hesitation in assuring you that it has ever been the first desire of the Duke of York to contribute by every means in his power to the support of the Lord Lieutenant in the administration of the government of Ireland, and that His Royal Highness will very readily give his best attention to such recommendations for first commissions as you may be induced to transmit to him; and if, as you observe, the Irish gentlemen have had but a small share of the advantages of the military profession, it must solely have arisen from the Lords-Lieutenant recommending their own friends, to the exclusion of others, as their recommendations have in every instance been scrupulously attended to.

With regard to promotion, the line is necessarily more limited, and in this instance the Commander-in-Chief is much more restricted than is usually imagined, as the rules of the service must be the first principle on which his

conduct is governed, and by which no officer can be promoted to the prejudice of another. I merely hint this that you may be convinced the army in Ireland has to the full the same share of regimental and general promotion as falls to the lot of the army in this country.

I may also, in confidence, mention to you, that at the commencement of the late administration, when a strong feeling was expressed that the Lord-Lieutenant should have the military patronage in Ireland, it was found on a discussion of the subject, that it would tend more to embarrass than strengthen his government, as he would find it impossible to withstand the powerful applications that would be made to him, and by acceding to them at the expense of the service, he would materially injure his own popularity. This was very strongly felt and expressed to the Duke by the late Marquess Cornwallis, although he had the military command together with the civil government, and whose estimation in the army could not be exceeded.

I am induced to enter more minutely into this matter with you, as, being a military man, you will at once see the force of this explanation, and be enabled by it to parry the unreasonable applications that may be made to you upon the subject.

You may, however, be entirely assured that the Duke will readily give every attention to your recommendations for promotion, and whenever they cannot be complied with, the most satisfactory explanation will be afforded you.

I have now but to assure you, my dear General, of the satisfaction it will give me personally to receive and execute any commands of yours, and I beg that you will believe me at all times

Yours most faithfully and truly,

W. J. GORDON.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[33.]

MY DEAR LORD;

Dublin Castle, 9th May, 1807.

I have made an arrangement respecting the borough of Downpatrick which will require your approbation and assistance to carry it into execution. This borough formerly belonged to Lord De Clifford, whose interest in it has lately fallen into the hands of Mr. Rowley, a Commissioner of the Revenue here, and of Mr. Croker, a gentleman who lately contested it against Lady Downshire.

If Mr. Croker will now stand, he is to have the De Clifford interest, and he has proved to me that he can carry the election. If he should not stand, Lady Downshire and Lord De Clifford have agreed to join their interests and bring in Sir Samuel Romilly. I understand that the negotiation for this junction has been carried on by Mr. Martin, the late member for Kinsale, for which place he was returned by the influence of Lord De Clifford, and that there is no seat for Sir Samuel Romilly excepting that at Downpatrick.

Under these circumstances I have thought it advisable to encourage Mr. Croker to persevere at Downpatrick. He has promised allegiance, and all that he required was a sum of from 1500*l.* to 2000*l.* to enable him to carry on the contest, and I have, by the Duke's advice, promised to supply it.

You know how we are situated in this country for want of money for services of this description. The whole amount of the secret service money is 5000*l.*, the greatest part of which is paid in pensions and other annual charges, for which there ought to be a more regular provision. Besides this fund, there is one arising from the savings of the Civil List, which at present amount to about 4000*l.* per annum. This fund properly belongs to the King's privy purse, and its amount has been invariably transmitted to Lord Cardigan. I understand that that part of it required here for secret services has been afterwards received from Lord Cardigan by one of the King's ministers, and sent over here to be applied as circumstances might require. There are secret pensions arising out of Union engagements upon this fund; but the arrear due upon them is not now more than from 1200*l.* to 1500*l.*, and the amount of the savings on the Civil List is, at least, 8000*l.*

The sum which I have consented to advance for the purpose of Mr. Croker's election must come either out of this fund or out of any fund applicable to election purposes existing in England. Indeed I believe that, at all events, it ought in the first instance to come from the latter, as the process is long by which we must get the money from the Civil List fund. It is wanted immediately, and I suspect that I shall be obliged to make use of my own credit in the first instance to procure it.

I shall be obliged to you if you will take this subject into your early consideration, and let me know what is to be done about it. In the mean time I have made all the arrangements here for sending over the surplus of the Civil List as soon as possible, so that you may have it in your power to do as you please about it.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I omitted to mention that Mr. Croker has an office of 300*l.* a year, which falls to the ground as soon as he will vacate it upon being returned to Parliament.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[34.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 11th May, 1807.

We are very busy with our elections, and I hope we shall be tolerably successful. I have organized a contest for the Knight of Kerry, and I have hopes that we shall bring in Colonel Crosbie instead of him. We should have a good chance if you could prevail upon Lord Headly to ask Mr. Arthur Blennerhasset, of Bath, to support Colonel Crosbie. He must lose no time in writing to his tenants, and let him send his letters by Waterford.

I also want Lord Spencer Chichester's interest in the county of Wexford for Colonel Alcock and Mr. Ram. Could you find means of procuring it?

The Duke wrote you word that the whole affair of the Attorney-General was settled to our satisfaction. The government has gained great credit and influence by the arrangement.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord ———.

[35.]

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 11th May, 1807.

I have to apologise for having so long omitted to answer the letter which I received from your Lordship, and have to offer, as the excuse for my omission, only the press of business at the moment, and that I was not able till to-day to give your Lordship a positive and satisfactory answer.

We are most anxious for the success of Mr. Alcock and Colonel Ram in the county of Wexford, and shall be obliged to your Lordship if you will support those gentlemen, and Mr. Hamilton and Colonel Falkiner in the county of Dublin.

I have laid before His Grace the Lord-Lieutenant your Lordship's wish to be promoted in the Peerage, and His Grace has desired me to tell your Lordship that it is his intention to make His Majesty's Ministers acquainted with your wishes, and that when a promotion in the Peerage will be made, your Lordship's wishes and claims will be taken into consideration. But it is not His Grace's intention at present to recommend such a promotion, or to engage for such promotion to anybody.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[36.]

To William Meeke, Esq.

MY DEAR MEEKE,

Dublin Castle, 11th May, 1807.

I have received your letter, and have spoken to the Duke of Richmond about its contents. You are rather high in your demand of an office of business; there are few so highly paid as that you wish for, and none but those to fill which men of experience are required. I think I shall soon have an opportunity of placing your friend, if he be more moderate than you are, which I hope he is, as the Duke and I observe that you found your claim to this provision upon the fact that you refused to resign, and have kept an office which the government wished to give to another!

However, I will really do what I can for your friend.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[37.]

To John Wilson Croker, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 11th May, 1807.

I have received your two letters of the 9th, and have taken measures respecting —, and that you may have the support of Smith. Major Swann shall likewise go to you. The removal of Mr. — will be more difficult; but I will speak to Mr. Foster upon that subject to-morrow.

Ever, dear Sir, yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[38.]

To Lord Castlereagh.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 13th May, 1807.

I enclose a paper, which I ought to have sent you some days ago, containing a plan for obtaining the services in Europe of 9000 men from the Irish militia. My objections to this plan, supposing it to be practicable to carry it into execution, are, that I doubt whether the militia officers would be able, in any reasonable period of time, to put together and organise these battalions for foreign service; that such a reduction from the effective strength of the militia would leave the remainder in a state of extreme inefficiency; and that it will stop the supply of

3000 men a year, even supposing that the militia should be able to contrive it.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[39.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 13th May, 1807.

I shall be obliged to you if you will be so kind as to apply to the Archbishop of Dublin to exert himself to support Mr. Bagwell in Tipperary. General Benson, who is the guardian of young Mr. St. George, has great influence in that county over the tenants of his ward; and the General is the brother-in-law of the Archbishop.

We are going on well. I think that we shall have 75 of the 100 Irish members.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To ———.

[40.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 13th May, 1807.

I received this morning your letter of Monday. The King's letter is arrived, authorising your appointment to be ———, and the patent is in preparation; but ——— appeared to think that it would be best that he should be appointed to the office instead of yourself. I shall be obliged to you if you will let me know whether this arrangement is according to your wishes. The government have well-founded objections to recommending that anybody should belong to the Council excepting those gentlemen whose official situations render it necessary that they should be there, and I am afraid that your appointment would open the door to many claims for the same favour; but I will write to the Secretary of State on the subject.

There is no necessity for your coming to Dublin previous to your election: your appointment is sufficient.

I told your son what you should do respecting Mr. ———. He was not pleased that you did not apply directly for his

interest without employing the authority of government, and therefore I urged your son to apply himself for the second votes. As, however, Mr. ——— says that I have left him at liberty, I will urge him strongly upon the subject this day.

I saw Mr. Grady yesterday, and, after a long conversation, the result was that he had satisfied ——— upon that subject, and that he would endeavour to procure for you the support of Lord Conyngham, in which object, in consequence of what I said to him, he thought he should succeed.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[41.]

To John Bagwell, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 14th May, 1807.

I am much concerned to hear that the Collector of Excise of Clonmel takes part against you in your election, as he must know, as well as we do, that his interference is illegal. It has been our wish to avoid dismissing any man from his situation; and although you have every claim to the consideration of government, you have not pressed that this gentleman should be removed till it would be in our power to provide for him as he ought to be. But I cannot allow him to make an illegal use of the influence of his office to prejudice you in your election; and if you should find that he perseveres in this conduct, I must request you to apprise me of it, that steps may be taken to put a stop to such practices.

Ever, dear Sir, yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[42.]

To Sir J. Stewart.

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 15th May, 1807.

I did not receive your letter of the 2nd till two days ago. The Lord-Lieutenant has desired me to tell you that government have been for some time determined to new-model the police of the city of Dublin, and that his Grace is unwilling to make any new appointments at present which might interfere with that

intention or might increase its expense by the necessity of providing for the officers of the existing police establishment whose offices should be abolished.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*To the Hon. Colonel F. N. Burton.**

[43.]

MY DEAR BURTON,

Dublin Castle, 15th May, 1807.

Your letter of the 12th was given to me by your friends yesterday, and, having made inquiries respecting the practicability of carrying your wishes into execution, I am sorry to tell you that there is no precedent whatever for the dismissal of a sheriff from his office excepting for gross misconduct, of which there should be evidence on oath ; and to dismiss the Sheriff of Clare at the present moment would be very injurious to you, and not very creditable to government.

The precedent which you have quoted in your letter of the 12th of the change of the Sheriff of Longford does not apply, as he resigned for his own convenience. Under all these circumstances, we have thought it best to leave the present Sheriff of Clare in his office.

Your friends mentioned that they wished that the Galway militia might be moved from Ennis, and that Protestant troops might be brought there. In consequence of this intimation, Lord Harrington has given orders that they may be relieved by a detachment from the regular battalion at Limerick.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Mulgrave.

[44.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 16th May, 1807.

I am very troublesome to you, but never so, I assure you, excepting in behalf of a deserving officer. I now write to you in favour of Lieutenant William Stephens, who is first lieutenant

* M.P. for the county of Clare.

of the *Fane*, at present at Portsmouth; he is a most meritorious officer, and would have been promoted two years ago by Admiral Rainier, if he had remained in the command in India. He is ready now to go to any part of the world; and only requests a recommendation from the Admiralty to the Admiral commanding on the station to which he may be sent. May I beg your Lordship to comply with his request?

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[45.]

To the Right Hon. Charles Long.

MY DEAR LONG,

Dublin Castle, 17th May, 1807.

I received your letters of the 11th and 12th two days ago. I heard from Lord Castlereagh respecting the return of Mr. Quintin Dick, and I have settled that he shall be returned for Cashell. Justice Day had, as usual, opened a negotiation in England for the sale of Tralee, having before agreed with the government here that we should have the borough; Lord Castlereagh discovered that Dick was to be the purchaser, and recommended that he should be the member for any place rather than Tralee. I have, therefore, put him in for Cashell; and as Henry desired that either he or I might be returned for any of the Irish seats the elections for which should be on an early day, I have directed Justice Day to return me for Tralee, and I shall desire Hardwicke to return Henry for Athlone. The elections for both these places must be before Saturday next; and if, between this day and Thursday, I should hear that it is wished that any particular persons should be returned, I shall be able to arrange accordingly.

I have written to Lord Charleville respecting Carlow. We shall have Dundalk now if Lord Stair should give up the return, or in a year if he should not. If we should get Carlow, you shall be returned for that borough, and Huskisson for Dundalk.

I have seen Bolton, and have done every thing in my power to assist him.

I have seen and heard French, and Mr. Brownrigg is one of the Duke's chaplains.

Wynne will not stand for Sligo, notwithstanding the efforts I have made to assist him; he would certainly throw out O'Hara. Our elections go on well. We shall have about three quarters of the Irish members.

I have some difficulty in deciding upon the contents of your letter of the 12th, and so has the Duke. A Deputy Secretary would be worse than useless, if he were to act in the absence of the chief upon different principles from those of the latter; and the use to be derived from such an officer would appear to depend entirely upon the selection of a proper person.

Marsden is the only person that I know of, excepting Cooke, who is qualified for such an office, and I have full confidence in his abilities and integrity; but there are defects in Marsden's temper and character, and circumstances have occurred here which, I am afraid, would operate to render the office of Deputy Secretary, if he should fill it, entirely prejudicial to the easy management of public affairs in this country: For many years of his life Marsden was involved in disputes with the principal persons in office, in all of which I am convinced he was right. But the parties in these disputes, as in every other in this country, have not forgotten their old animosities; and it would be inconvenient that government should be liable to act in the spirit of these animosities even for a time. On the other hand, it is not to be expected that the officers of government will act cordially with Marsden. With these opinions respecting the person undoubtedly best qualified for the office, and feeling that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to find any other person qualified in any degree to be useful, I acknowledge that I entertain doubts whether the appointment ought to be made at all. The convenience and sentiments of the Duke of Richmond must have more weight upon this subject than mine. The period in which it appears to me necessary that the Secretary should be in England is during the Session of Parliament; and at that time Foster and the great authorities in this country, whose communications with the office as at present constituted might be unpleasant, must be in London likewise.

After the business of Parliament will be over, the Secretary should be in Ireland; and as soon as the government will be settled, and all the Irish arrangements completed, I don't see much for a Deputy Secretary to do in London during the recess.

It may happen, however, that the Duke of Richmond would find it convenient to transact his business with the Under Secretaries, and in that case certainly a Deputy Secretary ought to be appointed.

Between this time and that of my departure for England the Duke and I will have many opportunities of talking over this subject, upon which I suppose that there is no occasion for an early decision.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Right Hon. Charles Long to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR WELLESLEY,

Pay Office, 12th May, 1807.

I found great inconvenience when I was in Ireland from the footing upon which the office of Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant has been since the Union, arising from the necessity there is of his being sometimes in this country and sometimes in Ireland, and the business in the country from which he is absent not being satisfactorily done during that absence. I could state various difficulties which have arisen from this both in England and in Ireland. Mr. Pitt had turned his mind to this, as have Lord Hawkesbury and Lord Redesdale; and the remedy which had occurred to them, and which I believe would obviate the inconvenience, was to create a new office, that of Second Secretary, the emoluments to be of course less than the first, and to be paid out of the savings of the Civil List: this second secretary to be in Ireland when the first was in England, and *vice versâ*. This arrangement would occasion a uniformity of proceeding on all Irish matters, and, among other advantages, would prevent what has been much complained of, viz., the Chancellor of the Exchequer assuming the powers of Chief Secretary here, while the latter was absent in Ireland, and the Under Secretary in Ireland being obliged to assume a consequence there during the Chief Secretary's absence, which it was impossible for him to act upon, and difficult for him to relinquish, upon the return of the Chief Secretary. If I had remained in office in Ireland I should certainly have urged the adoption of this plan, from feeling every day the necessity of some such arrangement. The person in this new office must, of course, be upon the most confidential footing with the Chief Secretary. It was my intention strongly to have recommended the appointment of Marsden to it, who is extremely well informed upon Irish subjects in general, and who acted with me in the most useful and confidential manner; but whoever the person you decide upon may be, the arrangement itself I think will be found most beneficial for the interests of the two countries, as well as most essential to the comfort of the Chief Secretary.

Yours most sincerely,

C. LONG.

To Lord Tyrawley.

[46.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 17th May, 1807.

I delayed apprising you, as I ought to have done, that we were very anxious for the election of Lord Kingston to the vacancy in the representative Peerage, till I should hear from England on the subject relating to your son, on which you conversed with me ; and to tell you the truth, I heard of an answer which you gave to Lord Kingston's opponent, which convinced me that we should not suffer from the delay in applying to you, even if I could have required such conviction. The election, however, now approaches, and I think it proper no longer to delay apprising you of our intentions and our wishes in respect to your support.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Admiral Whitshed.

[47.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 18th May, 1807.

I send herewith some letters which have been received from the Secretary of State relative to the gun-vessels stationed on the coasts of Ireland, and a list of those vessels ; and the Lord-Lieutenant, thinking that you are the person most capable of assisting his judgment upon this occasion, has desired me to ask you to favour him with your opinion relative to these vessels.

It has appeared to us and to Lord Harrington that gun-vessels are necessary to guard the coasts of this kingdom, and that in certain situations they might be very useful in the event of actual attack by the enemy. But the question with us is, whether these vessels are sufficiently numerous to be of any use as a general guard in time of war ; or are of a description, and are so stationed, or can be so stationed, as to be useful in case of actual attack. If they are useful neither as a general guard to the coasts nor in case of attack, the expense of them ought certainly to be discontinued.

I request you to return these papers when you will have considered them.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[48.]

To the Earl of Westmeath.

MY DEAR WESTMEATH,

Dublin Castle, 18th May, 1807.

I have just heard that your deputy, Mr. Bouchier,* proposes to vote for Mr. Talbot at the election for Dublin, and I have been given to understand that he takes this part in consequence of directions from you. I think that I take but a limited view of the duty of the friends and supporters of government when I say that they ought not to make use of the influence which they acquire solely by their situation under government against the friends of government in the elections; and I am sure that you will be disposed to apply this principle to the case of Mr. Bouchier in the Dublin election.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[49.]

To John Pollock, Esq.†

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 18th May, 1807.

I have had a correspondence with Mr. Tighe‡ upon the subject of a proposition which he made to resign a corps of yeomanry in Westmeath. In the letter which I wrote to him I told him that the Lord-Lieutenant was determined to employ His Majesty's subjects of all descriptions as the law would allow, and according to their several qualifications and abilities for employment. I mention this in case he should refer to any in communication with me.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[50.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 18th May, 1807.

Lord Leitrim has no chance whatever of succeeding upon the vacancy for the representative peerage, as you will observe

* Deputy Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper.

† Clerk of the Crown for the Province of Leinster.

‡ Mr. Tighe was a Roman Catholic gentleman of family and fortune.

by perusing the paper which the Duke will send you this day. But we have a very difficult game to play in this country; and you must not be surprised if we should lose some of our elections. Notwithstanding that the objects to be attained by it are as numerous as ever, the patronage of the local government in Ireland has been very much diminished since the Union, and indeed I may say that at present it operates against the government in every instance. We have nothing to say to the army, the ordnance, the commissariat, the medical department, the barrack department, and the comptroller of the army accounts; and the officers of the revenue, who by law ought not to interfere in elections, are against us in almost every instance. I intend, when I return to England, to bring under your consideration the state of this government in respect to its influence in the country; and you will see the necessity of adopting some measures to prevent the influence of all the departments which I have above mentioned from being exercised against our friends.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Captain Brace, H.M.S. Virginia, Cork.

[51.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 18th May, 1807.

I have the Lord Lieutenant's commands to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant relative to three French merchants with passes for America found on board an American ship from Bordeaux, bound to New York, which has put into the harbour of Cork in distress; and to acquaint you that his Grace highly approves of your precaution to prevent their getting on shore by removing them to His Majesty's ship *Amsterdam*. His Grace, however, does not think it will be necessary to take any further measures respecting those men, and that they may be allowed to return to the American ship when she is ready to proceed on her voyage, unless it has appeared to you that there is reason to suspect it was the intention of those people to land in Ireland for some improper purpose. If any circumstances have appeared to give ground for

such suspicion, I request you will communicate them to me, for his Grace's information and further direction.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[52.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 19th May, 1807.

I enclose a letter which I have received from the Bishop of Waterford,* which is nearly to the same purport with a conversation which I had with him. The bishopric is very good, and I do not understand for what reason he wishes to change it.

I believe I informed you that the Solicitor-General† had suggested that it would be agreeable to Plunket to have a patent of precedence in the courts next to the Attorney and Solicitor General, in the same manner as Saurin‡ had; and that the Duke of Richmond and I felt strongly inclined to adopt this suggestion.

The Chancellor agreed in opinion with us upon it; but it was settled that no step should be taken in the business unless Serjeant Moore, Serjeant Ball, and Mr. Brereton, who are the principal persons over whom Plunket would be advanced, should consent to the arrangement. They have expressed their consent in the handsomest terms both towards government and Plunket; and Plunket has declared to the Chancellor his intention to accept this favour from the government, and has said that he is happy in having an opportunity of proving to the world that, although not in office, he is considered as a friend, and that he will do everything in his power to be serviceable to government.

I wish you would read a letter which I have written this day to Lord Castlereagh.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* The Hon. Dr. Power Trench.

† Charles Kendal Bushe.

‡ Right Hon. W. Saurin, Attorney-General.

To Lord Castlereagh.

[53.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 19th May, 1807.

Bligh * called upon me yesterday, and told me that after his conversation with you and your brother, and he had left London, Lord Darnley had repeated what had passed between you and him to Lord Headfort,† who had thought it necessary to apprise Lord Fingall of Bligh's future political intentions. Lord Fingall had a meeting with Bligh yesterday morning, the result of which was a declaration on his part that he and the Catholics had determined that they would not support any candidates who should not pledge themselves to oppose the present government, and a desire that Bligh would come to an early decision respecting his conduct. I first urged Bligh to stand the contest, in answer to which he said that he could not bear the expense, and that, considering the state of the registry, he should be beaten, even if Lord Headfort should support him, which he had reason to doubt. I then told him that the next best thing to do would be to decline the contest in the face of the county, and to state his reasons, and what had passed between him and Lord Fingall, to the public. I pointed out the degraded situation in which he would be placed in Parliament; in fact, the tool of Lord Fingall. But he prefers to come in, and he has asked to be absolved from his engagements with us.

I told him that I should write to you; that of course we could not consider him bound either to lose his seat or to take a test and then depart from it; that we were certain of his good disposition towards us, for which we were obliged to him, and should be convinced that he was not in a situation to act as it should dictate.

Believe me, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Clarina.

[54.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 19th May, 1807.

I received your letters on the subject of Mr. Monsell's views in the county of Limerick, upon which I have only to repeat

* Thomas Bligh, M.P. for the county of Meath.

† Marquess of Headfort.

what I said before, that I am desirous to avoid giving any aid in disturbing the peace of the country, when I know that it will answer no good end.

My principal reason for writing to you this day was to inform you that I had yesterday received a letter from Colonel Gordon in answer to that in which I had recommended and requested that you might be placed on the staff as a brigadier-general; and I am sorry to tell you that the Duke of York has refused to attend to our recommendation of you, and has stated reasons for this refusal which I am convinced it will be impossible to overcome. I am much concerned at this disappointment; and I assure you that both the Duke of Richmond and I did everything in our power for you.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[55.]

To ———.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 20th May, 1807.

I have written to England relative to your appointment as ———, and I have no doubt that I shall receive the King's letter on that subject as early as a return can be made to my communication. No time shall be lost in preparing your patent after the King's letter shall have arrived. In the mean time I wish you to understand that although it is my opinion that you will be considered as having accepted and being in possession of the office from the day on which the King's letter may be dated, I think it would be advisable that you should postpone the day of your election to the latest period which you conveniently can, in order that you may have the patent previous to the time of the return for ———.

I certainly employed every effort in my power towards securing ——— election, and I am happy to learn from you that he has so good a prospect of success.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[56.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 21st May, 1807..

We are very anxious to know your final determination respecting Sir Charles Ormsby. In the last conversation which I had with Foster, he appeared to think that there would be no necessity for having him in Parliament, and possibly none for bringing him to England. There does not appear any necessity, therefore, for giving him a larger salary than he had ; and if we should at any time have occasion for a counsel in England, we must only pay him for his services. Pray let us hear from you soon whether we shall restore Sir Charles to his office ; I am convinced that it is necessary to adopt this measure.

In regard to the seats at the Board of Revenue, I have to mention to you that we have now more candidates to fill them than we have vacancies. The vacancies are : Mr. Jocelyn, elected for the county of Louth, and Mr. Taylor and Mr. Magnay, to be dismissed according to your directions. Mr. Longfield, who was dismissed by the late government, must fill one ; Mr. —, to whom an engagement was made by Mr. Pitt that he should have one of these offices for his son, in order to facilitate an arrangement by which he was to have the Limerick militia, must have the second for his son ; and we must hear from you respecting the third.

We do not yet know here what was finally settled in England respecting Mr. George Knox. It had been suggested that he should have a seat at the Board of Accounts, and 400*l.* a-year pension ; but there is no vacancy at the Board of Accounts, and no means of making one excepting by the removal of one of the members to the Board of Revenue. If this should be the arrangement for Mr. Knox, the third seat will be filled by the removal of the member from the Board of Accounts.

Another question is, what is to be done to ensure a vacancy for Mr. Jocelyn, as soon as he will go out of Parliament ?

Besides these modes of filling up this third vacancy, there are two claimants for office, to both of whom a seat at the Board of Revenue would be agreeable. One of these is Lord —, who is the nephew of the late General, and will have all the property belonging to his aunts. He is now in great distress, having only 700*l.* a-year, with a very large family to support. He has much personal influence in a part of this county, which I

understand he has more than once exerted in the service of government, and his appointment would be a popular act; but I am convinced that it would deprive him of his personal influence, in the same manner as the acceptance of office has every other person who had that description of influence in this country.

The other candidate is Mr. —, the son of Lord —. His claims rest upon those of his grandfather, and upon the poverty of his family. The present Lord — is a clergyman, with tolerably good preferment; the son a young man, about twenty-three years of age, and both, I believe, respectable. The Duke is inclined to prefer the latter.

Pray let us know what is settled about Mr. Knox, as the whole question turns upon that arrangement.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[57.]

To Lord Mulgrave.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 22nd May, 1807.

I am sorry to be so troublesome to you, but I now enclose a letter from Handfield about his son.

In respect to Mr. Stephens, I have no wish in his favour founded on any interest he has in this country, or on any service he might render us; but solely on his own merits as an officer, which would have promoted him two years ago, if Admiral Rainier had remained in command.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[58.]

To John Bagwell, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 22nd May, 1807.

I have just received your letter of the 20th, and I cannot understand what it was that roused the feelings of Lord Donoughmore, provided that Mr. Grady related truly what passed between me and him. As for Lord Kingston, I don't recollect that anything passed between him and me respecting Lord Donoughmore, excepting that he suggested to me the propriety of endeavouring, through the medium of Mr. Grady, to prevail upon Lord Donough-

more to support you ; and in a letter which I wrote to Lord Kingston, I told him that I had acted as he had suggested.

If these gentlemen have said or hinted anything to Lord Donoughmore which I did not intend, and which has roused his feelings, I am sorry for it ; but till I know what they did say, or what has had that unpleasant effect, I can do nothing.

In respect to the last part of your letter, I must tell you that, with every disposition, as you know, to do everything which can forward your views in Tipperary, I cannot apply to the Duke of Richmond for authority to make the engagement which you have suggested in favour of Lord Donoughmore's brother. It appears that his feelings have been roused because I told Mr. Grady that government had no hostility towards him or his family ; and I should imagine that they would be affected in a stronger degree by any proffer of friendship. So far the question is considered as affecting your interests and views only.

But when I view it in reference to the dignity and the strength of the government, I must say that, with every disposition to conciliate Lord Donoughmore, I will not offer him or any other man the favours of the Crown without some certainty not only that they will not be received as insults, but that they will be received as favours.

I wish that you would employ some fitter person than Mr. — as your agent here. He is not very discreet, and repeated every syllable of a conversation he had with me, which was not very important, indeed ; but it is as well that you should employ a person upon whom more dependence can be placed.

I was sorry to hear yesterday that Matthew and Prittie had certainly joined. You know your own affairs best ; but I would suggest to you the propriety of setting up a fourth candidate to take your second votes.

What have you done about Holmes ?

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Clancarty.

[59.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 22nd May, 1807.

In answer to your letter of the 19th, I have to mention that I had already received from your brother a similar intimation

respecting the contest at Waterford, through Gregory; but I had some days before taken such steps to assist ——'s views as he suggested, and as were satisfactory to him.

I have done nothing respecting money. —— did not hint that he wanted any, and if he had, I doubt whether I ought to have ventured to assist him.

What your brother says respecting the collectors at Waterford is very true, and I could tell you much more of the same kind of other departments under this government. Never was there a government so unhinged; but the remedies do not depend upon us, and if they did, they must not be applied in a hurry. I am also aware that one of the newspapers at Waterford is hostile; but this is another point upon which we must proceed throughout this country with caution.

——, like every other man in this country, would sacrifice —— to secure his own seat without a contest, for reasons into which it is not now necessary to enter. But if he is to have a contest, as he is certain of success, he will not sacrifice —— to bring it to a conclusion one or two days sooner. We are sure of him; but I doubt that I shall be able to do much with his brother ———.

I understand that Newport will certainly be beaten. He has not a chance, excepting when assisted by government.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[60.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 23rd May, 1807.

Since I wrote to you yesterday Mr. —— has been with me, and has laid in his claim for a Commissioner's place. He was in the Revenue formerly, and had an office of 700*l.* a year, from which he was dismissed by Lord Hardwicke, in consequence of a speech which he made in the Common Council. Mr. Pitt intended that he should have his office again or another, and the Duke of Cumberland has written to the Duke of Richmond about him, and Long to me, as —— says, by desire of the Duke of Portland.

I acknowledge that I think a seat at the Board of Revenue too high for a man of ——'s calibre; but it is my duty to

lay his claim before you, and you will consider of it with those of others about whom I wrote to you yesterday.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*To Sir E. B. Littlehales, Bart.**

[61.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Phoenix Park, 24th May, 1807.

Have you any influence over, or could you get at, Captain Anderson at Kiltiernan? We want him very much to support Falkiner to-morrow. He has ten votes, and they would be most material.

Urge him on the ground of the Protestant interest, and on Talbot's revolutionary speech on the first day of the election, and on Wogan Brown's speech yesterday. Brigade-Major Cosby can get at Captain Anderson.

There is no time to be lost, as we must make an effort early to-morrow.

Yours ever,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To John Bagwell, Esq.

[62.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 25th May, 1807.

I have received your letter by express, and that of the 23rd. In respect to Mr. Cooper Craufurd, I had stopped him; but, upon further consideration and upon inquiry, I found that an instance had never occurred of a professional man in the service of government having been prevented from giving his professional aid to individuals. It appeared that he had been the old agent of Mr. Prittie's family; and, above all, I found that your agent had been so indiscreet as to make it known that he had had a communication with me on the subject. Upon the whole, therefore, I thought it most for the credit of government and of yourself to allow him to go down to Clonmel.

I have done my utmost to get Mr. Holmes's assistance for you, and I enclose you his answer to my letter, from which you will perceive that he says you have canvassed and are to have the support of his tenantry. But I write to him again by this post to urge him more strongly, in consequence of the junction and of the language of your opponents.

* Under Secretary in the Military Department.

I will speak to my brother respecting Mr. Todd.

I can say no more respecting Lord Donoughmore than I have said to you already.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[63.]

To Peter Holmes, Esq.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 25th May, 1807.

I received your letter of the 21st. It is not necessary that I should enter further upon the subject of the conversation which I had the honour of holding with you in town than to tell you that I conceive that I stated its purport in the last letter which I wrote to you. I have just received the accounts of the commencement of the election at Clonmel, and I observe that Mr. Prittie and Colonel Matthew have joined against my friend Mr. Bagwell ; that they have made use of most intemperate language against the government, the Protestant establishments, and His Majesty ; and that they have declared the object of their junction to be opposition to the present government. As the principles of these candidates appear to be so very inconsistent with the principles and opinions which you have been pleased to communicate to me in your letter of the 21st, you will probably think it proper to alter the determination which you had at that period formed to take no part in favour of Mr. Bagwell.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[64.]

To the Earl of Harrington.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 26th May, 1807.

Mr. Pole has spoken to me on the subject of an artillery establishment at the powder-works at Ballincollig, upon which the Ordnance are very desirous to have your opinion.

Ballincollig is situated upon the sea, about four miles from Cork, on the right of the road to Bandon, and the Ordnance

have there their powder-works and a large space of ground well adapted to the purposes of an artillery station. The ordnance and artillery attached to the Southern Division are at present at Cork, in buildings, hired at a large expense, which are entirely inconvenient; and it is obvious that, whatever may be the result of the discussions respecting a station at Ballincollig, new barracks and other conveniences for the artillery attached to the southern district must be built.

It is equally obvious, on the other hand, that even in ordinary times a guard must be stationed near the powder-works at Ballincollig, and that no troops could perform that duty so well as the artillery. It is also clear that the space of ground, and the nature of that at Ballincollig, are well adapted to artillery purposes, that the Ordnance have it already in their possession, and that there will be no necessity for incurring any further expense in the purchase of ground, if it should be determined to fix there the artillery station.

The only question is, whether the distance of four miles from Cork is so great as to become a serious inconvenience; and if that inconvenience should be of a magnitude to overbalance the advantages which would result from the adoption of the proposal to fix the station at Ballincollig. Upon this point you alone can be the judge; but, as well as I can recollect the relative situation of the barracks at Cork, Kinsale, and Bandon, and the stations at Ballincollig, I should think that to place the artillery there would be more consistent with the plan for barracks which we have more than once talked over, than to have them at any other place. I have troubled you upon this subject because I believe that Lord Chatham will talk to you upon it on your arrival in London.

I hope that your daughters are better. All is very quiet here; the elections going on well.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Marquess of Ely.

[65.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 26th May, 1807.

A suspicion has been communicated to me of an intention to do some mischief at Wexford during the election, particularly

if it should turn against your friends. I acknowledge that I don't give much weight to this communication, but I have seen and heard of too many instances of the evil resulting from a sense of security without precaution to think of omitting to take precautionary measures whenever I hear of intentions of the description on which I now trouble you.

I am not acquainted with the commanding officer of the regiment at Wexford, and am therefore unable to communicate with him in the confidential manner which such a case requires in order to avoid occasioning unnecessary alarm. But I wish you to recommend him, first, to keep on duty and always in the barracks a larger proportion of his men than usual; secondly, to take particular care that the arms, accoutrements, and ammunition of his men, particularly those on duty, are in good order; thirdly, to take care that the officers on duty remain with their men, and are very vigilant and alert in the performance of their duty; fourthly, not to allow the soldiers to go out of the barracks excepting dressed as soldiers ought to be, with their side-arms, and to keep them as much as possible out of the public-houses and the mobs in the town; fifthly, to have the rolls called with great strictness at night, not to suffer a man to quit his barracks after that hour, and to have patrols sent out to take up any soldiers who may be in the streets.

All these measures may be taken, and nobody have any knowledge of them excepting the commanding officer and yourself; they will secure everything, and no alarm will be created.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[66.]

To the Right Hon. Charles Long.

MY DEAR LONG,

Dublin Castle, 26th May, 1807.

Your letter respecting Carlow arrived on Sunday morning, and was sent off to Lord Charleville immediately; and as he probably had put off the election till the last moment, it will have reached him in time to enable him to return your friend yesterday.

Your letter of the 23rd did not arrive till this morning. The election at Tralee had taken place, and that at Athlone

commenced yesterday. There is a trifling opposition at the latter, and I fancy the return will not have been made till this day. It is unlucky that my letter of the 17th did not reach you sooner, or that Henry did not write to me.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

[67.]

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 27th May, 1807.

Mr. Alby, a very respectable and ingenious gentleman, has the living of Moynett, in the diocese of Meath, the value of which he states to be 150*l.*, and he has requested permission to exchange it for the living of Tully Corbet, in the diocese of Clogher, in the possession of Mr. Hussey Burgh. The Bishop of Clogher has given his consent to this exchange, but as his Grace the Lord-Lieutenant is determined not to allow of exchanges of this description excepting when made by the consent of the Bishops in whose dioceses the livings to be exchanged may be situated, he has desired me to request your Lordship will let me know whether you have any objection to the exchange proposed by Mr. Alby.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

• Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Charles Powell Leslie, Esq.

[68.]

MY DEAR LESLIE,

Dublin Castle, 27th May, 1807.

I showed your letter of the 21st to the Duke of Richmond, and he desired me to tell you that your wish to be a member of the Linen Board should be considered with those of others who had expressed them. His determination is to appoint the person residing in that part of the country in which a member of the Board would be most useful to the country; and I think that from all that I have heard upon the subject, you are more likely than any other to be selected upon this vacancy.

Ever yours most affectionately,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[69.]

To the Hon. Henry Wellesley.

MY DEAR HENRY,

Dublin Castle, 28th May, 1807.

We have no seat now vacant in Ireland, as it was necessary to hold the elections on Monday last; and I did not hear from Long respecting the persons to be returned till Tuesday. But if they were all vacant, it would be impossible to get one for Mr. Foulkes for six sessions. The Irish proprietors of boroughs have experienced very lately the advantages of selling their seats for the Parliament only, and not a man would engage for a term of years. You will be able to arrange as you please the succession to Mr. Foulkes' seat.

Tell Long that I have not seen or heard from Lord Charleville since I sent him his letter on Sunday last. But I believe he must have made his return for Carlow on Monday.

Ever yours most affectionately,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Let me know by express whether there is any objection to a man pairing off. I should think that it would be desirable to pair off, if the opposition member would certainly go over if the pair were not made.

[70.]

To Lord Castlereagh.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 1st June, 1807.

By all accounts you are advancing the preparations for your expedition to the Continent, which I now conclude will be sent. I hope that you recollect what I said to you upon this subject. It may happen that you have it not in your power to employ me as I wish, and it might have happened that I should not have been so employed if I had not been appointed to the office which I fill in this country. But that will not be believed; and it will be understood and said that I had avoided or had not sought for an opportunity of serving abroad in order to hold a large civil office.

As I am determined not to give up the military profession, and as I know that I can be of no service in it unless I have the confidence and esteem of the officers and soldiers of the army, I must shape my course in such a manner as to avoid this imputation. • If, therefore, you send the expedition, I wish you

would urge Lord Hawkesbury to fix upon a successor for me, as I positively cannot stay here whether I am to be employed with it or not.

When you will urge this request upon him, I beg you to tell him that the zeal and anxiety for the success of the present government, which induced me to come here, are by no means diminished. I would do anything to serve them; but I am convinced they will all see that I should lose half the power of being of use to them if any imputation could be cast upon me. I have also to observe that they will have no difficulty in finding a successor for me, and that this wish of mine must have been expected.

Believe me, my dear Lord,

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Westmoreland.

[71.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 1st June, 1807.

It is perfectly true that Matthew and Prittie have joined, and Bagwell is very far behind-hand; but he is sanguine in his hopes of success; and in one of his late letters told me that he thought he might bring in Pennefather. He attributes the present state of the poll to Matthew's Catholic mobs, who have been parading through the county with green flags and feathers, have torn to pieces the carriages carrying his voters to Clonmel, and have created such an alarm in the county that his supporters are afraid to come forward. He had, however, got out some dragoons, under whose protection he hoped to bring in his voters, and that his success in the end was certain.

I will try what I can do with Lady Kingston; but, as Lord Kingston is in the country, and is canvassing her tenants, I rather believe that Bagwell will have the support of the greatest proportion of them. The promotion of the son, however, will secure them to him.

Alcock and Colclough have fought a duel in the county of Wexford, in which the latter has been killed.

Believe me, my dear Lord,

Ever yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[72.]

To the Lord Chancellor.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 1st June, 1807.

Mr. Handcock, a gentleman of large fortune and respectability in the county of Westmeath, has desired me to ask your Lordship to appoint Mr. George Flood a magistrate of the county of Westmeath. He resides in the town of Athlone, which, as your Lordship knows, is situated on the Shannon, part on each side of the river. He is a justice of peace of the county of Roscommon; but as his authority does not extend to Westmeath, he has not the power of doing as much good as he is inclined to do.

When you will have it in your power to grant this request, I beg you to send me the commission appointing Mr. Flood.

Ever, my dear Lord,

Your most faithful humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[73.]

To the Earl of Harrington.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 1st June, 1807.

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 27th May, and I am very glad to find that my playfellows are getting well.

Since I wrote to you last all has been quiet. A magistrate at Ballymote, in the county of Sligo, wrote that there had been some appearance of disturbance in that part of the country. He appears from his letter to have been under great apprehensions; his account is not supported by others, and he has not transmitted copies of examinations relating to the outrages which he says were committed. I have called upon him to send up the last; and in the mean time, as Ballymote is the station at which General Campbell thought there ought to be a detachment of troops (for which service he preferred Highlanders), I have, upon consultation with Anstruther, directed that barracks for two companies might be prepared there.

The elections are going on quietly. We lost Dublin owing to a foolish bargain which Mr. Falkiner made at the last elec-

tion, by which he deprived himself of the support of not less than five hundred votes.

I hope that you will find your brother quite well. Lady Anna Maria is, I find, entirely recovered : pray remember me most kindly to her and Lady Harrington, and all your family, and

Believe me, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Since I wrote the above I have received an account that Mr. Alcock, one of the candidates at Wexford, has killed his opponent, Mr. Colclough, in a duel. As this is reckoned fair in Ireland, it created no sensation in the county. I have seen a gentleman who quitted Wexford on the morning after the duel.

The Catholic mobs in Tipperary have endeavoured to prevent the voters of Mr. Bagwell from going to the poll. But they have not done much mischief of any other description ; and parties of dragoons have gone out to protect the freeholders on their journey to give their votes !!!

To Lady Elizabeth Fakenham.

[74.]

MY DEAR LADY ELIZABETH,

Dublin Castle, 1st June, 1807.

Nothing can give me greater pleasure than to have an opportunity of doing anything for Mr. Sherlock ; and most undoubtedly, if a fair opportunity should offer, I will not fail to request the Lord-Lieutenant to provide for him. But you must be aware that I am in a very delicate situation in this country ; and, being connected with it myself, it is my duty, and it is expected from me, to avoid pressing upon the government objects which may be referable only to my own views in favour of my own friends and connections. I acknowledge, therefore, that I should prefer to have the claims of Mr. Sherlock brought forward by Lord Longford, as a mode more likely to be successful, and certainly one which would relieve me from all embarrassment in pressing the Lord-Lieutenant to provide for him when there may be a fair opportunity.

I beg that you will understand that I am not desirous of getting rid of your request ; but I have stated fairly to you an embarrassment which may, and indeed must, retard the accom-

plishment of your wishes, and have pointed out the mode by which you may avoid it.

Ever yours most affectionately,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[75.] *To Brigadier-General the Honourable W. Stewart.**

MY DEAR STEWART,

Dublin Castle, 1st June, 1807.

I laid your letter of the 26th May, relative to the Comte de Jarnac, before the Duke of Richmond, and by his desire have inquired into the circumstance of the allowance to General officers formerly in the service of the King of France. But I have not found any trace of such an allowance in any of the offices of this country.

You know how we are situated in respect to pensions, and how difficult it is to find the means of giving one to a person in the situation of the Comte de Jarnac. I assure you that, as I have the pleasure of being acquainted with him, and have a great respect for him, I should have been very happy in being instrumental in forwarding your wishes in his favour.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[76.] *To Edward Croker, Esq.*

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 1st June, 1807.

I have laid before the Lord-Lieutenant your letter, in which you have desired that he would present a gentleman whom you should recommend to the living of Cabircomery, now vacant; in answer to which I have the honour to inform you that it appears upon inquiry that the presentation to the living of Cabircomery belongs to the family of Lord Kenmare, but that, as they are Roman Catholics, it falls by law to government. The government, however, have been in the habit of consulting the wishes of Lord Kenmare in the disposal of this preferment; and as his Grace the Duke of Richmond is disposed to manifest this

* Brother of Lord Castlereagh.

same attention to his Lordship, he is concerned that he cannot adopt this opportunity of gratifying your wishes.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Your most faithful humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Brigadier-Major Beevor.

[77.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 1st June, 1807.

Sir Edward Littlehales has communicated to me your letter of the 29th May, relative to the wish expressed by certain of the corps of yeomanry in the neighbourhood of Enniscorthy to celebrate the battle of Vinegar Hill, which I have laid before the Lord-Lieutenant.

It can never be the wish of his Grace to check that sentiment among military men which prompts them to celebrate the achievements of themselves or of their brother soldiers, convinced as his Grace is that the encouragement of this sentiment and the recollection of former achievements urge those who have performed great actions to a repetition of their exertions, and to an imitation of them those who have not had such an opportunity. But in the case under consideration the wish of the corps of yeomanry does not apply only to the commemoration of a military achievement; and it appears impossible to celebrate the victory at Vinegar Hill without recalling to the recollection, not only of those who celebrate, but of the country in general, the persons over whom that victory was gained, and all the unfortunate circumstances of the times which concurred to bring about that state of affairs which rendered that battle and victory necessary. His Grace cannot believe that those who wish to commemorate their military achievement are desirous to hurt the feelings of others, however blameable and guilty they may have been; and he does not suppose that they can wish to perpetuate the memory of the unfortunate circumstances which led to the contest in question.

Upon the whole, the Lord-Lieutenant is desirous that this commemoration should be avoided, and that, if possible, these unfortunate disputes should be forgotten.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[78.]

To the Earl of Enniskillen.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 1st June, 1807,

By desire of the Duke of Richmond I trouble you with the enclosed papers.

The first of them is a memorial from the Belleisle yeomanry, in which they claim something like the exercise of a right to appoint their own captain, which the Duke is determined never to admit. Adverting, however, to the nature of the yeomanry establishment, he is desirous of avoiding to sanction the appointment of a person to command this corps who may be disagreeable to them; and he thinks there is sufficient ground for refusing to appoint Captain Irwine to be the acting captain of the corps, as proposed by Captain King, in the fact that he is already a captain in the Fermanagh militia. The Duke is therefore disposed to allow the command to devolve upon Lieutenant William Charters, junior, without making him a captain; if he be a proper man for the situation, and if the circumstances stated against him in one of the enclosed letters are not true. If he should not be a fit person for the trust, into which the Duke begs you will inquire, he then requests you to fix upon a proper person to be the acting captain of this corps of yeomanry in the absence of Captain King, who may reside in their neighbourhood, and who you may think will be agreeable to the corps.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[79.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 3rd June, 1807.

I am sorry to tell you that I have this day received a letter from Bagwell, stating his fears that he should lose his election. There never was anything equal to the violence of the priests and of the whole Roman Catholic body in the county of Tipperary. They have fomented serious riots to frighten Bagwell's freeholders and prevent them from going to the poll. The priests have inveighed against him from the altars, and have successfully endeavoured to prevail upon the Catholic tenantry to oppose the wishes of their landlords. Bagwell was supported by

the whole property of the county ; but in this contest property has had no weight. I have sent his letter over to the Lord-Lieutenant, and will enclose it to you if he should return it before the post will go out.

The country is very quiet notwithstanding these election broils. Excepting at Waterford, the contests are now over. It is not yet known whether Newport or Bolton will succeed at Waterford.

I enclose a more correct list of our returns than I sent you before. I shall be obliged to you if you will show it to my brother.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. Charles Long.

[80.]

MY DEAR LONG,

Dublin Castle, 6th June, 1807.

The Duke of Richmond writes this day to Lord Hawkesbury respecting the claim of the late Lord Shannon to the amount of his salary as First Lord of the Treasury from the time he resigned that office to the day of his death, upon which subject I request you to give Lord Hawkesbury all the information in your power.

Foster has been released from his election troubles, and came to town the day before yesterday ; and yesterday he began the battle respecting the Treasury, and made his first effort to supersede the authority of the Lord-Lieutenant by that of the Irish Treasury. I propose, however, to adjourn the contest to London, where it must be settled by the King's servants.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Castlereagh.

[81.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 6th June, 1807.

I did not receive your letter of the 26th of May till yesterday.

We found, upon a more close inspection of the Act of Parliament, that we could not commence our operations respecting the volunteers from the regiments' of militia, upon the plan

proposed in my circular letter to the Colonels, till the 25th of July, so that the objections of your Lieutenant-Colonel fall to the ground. I acknowledge, however, that it occurred to me that the plan would not answer, because, in fact, every regiment of militia would become a recruiting quarter during the entire year, supposing the Colonel should allow it to have any operation, and that every man who might have felt any dissatisfaction, however trifling, would have immediately called for his discharge from the militia to go into the line. The limitation of the time during which it will be in the power of militiamen to volunteer, aided by the positive orders to be given to the officers of the line to avoid interfering till the 25th of August, will remove the first inconvenience entirely, and the last will exist only from the 23rd of July to the 5th of September, the last day, I believe, on which volunteers can be discharged from the militia.

We have not received the orders respecting the employment of the permanent serjeants of yeomanry to recruit for the line, and I wish that you would take measures to send them over, as I propose to go to England on Sunday or Monday se'nnight, and I should wish to arrange the plan before I go away.

I sent Lord Hawkesbury a list of our returns, and a state of the numbers which will attend Parliament on both sides. There has been no alteration since I wrote to him, excepting that Newport has gained some advantage over Bolton, although the election is not yet lost.

Brooke's friends in Donegal pledged themselves to two points: 1st, That he was independent of Lord Conyngham; 2nd, That he was not hostile towards government; and I consider it certain that he will support. I am glad that Lord Abercorn is satisfied.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[82.]

*To Lieut.-Colonel Anstruther.**

MY DEAR COLONEL,

Dublin Castle, 8th June; 1807.

I return General Brownrigg's letter, which I have shown to the Lord-Lieutenant, and I have to tell you that we don't

* Adjutant-General in Ireland.

believe that any field-officers of the yeomanry will be appointed, or that, if they should be appointed, the Lord-Lieutenant will have anything to say to the selection of them. Colonel Browne was my commanding officer when I was in the 58th, and I had a good opinion of him, and, indeed, I think him superior to those who in general are candidates for the situation of inspecting field-officer of the yeomanry. But I imagine he must be seventy years old, which must, in some degree, disable him for the performance of any active duty.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Gosford.

[83.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 8th June, 1807.

We are very anxious to have a full attendance at the meeting of Parliament, and I shall be very much obliged to you if you will urge Mr. Brownlow and Mr. Richardson to go over and to be in London before the 24th. I would write to both, only that I am not acquainted with them, and a letter from "*the Secretary*" might look like a suspicion of dependence, which I certainly do not entertain. I hope, however, that you will endeavour to prevail upon these gentlemen to go over.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lady _____.

[84.]

MADAM,

Dublin Castle, 8th June, 1807.

I had the honour of receiving your Ladyship's letter of the 1st instant, and I have to assure you that it would give me great satisfaction to be in any degree instrumental in forwarding your Ladyship's views. But the means which the government of this country possesses of making provision for a person of your Ladyship's family, rank, and situation in life, are very limited; and the demands and claims upon those means so very extensive, that I should not act fairly by your Ladyship if I were to hold out to you any hope that this government could

be enabled to make the provision for you to which you have a claim.

Under these circumstances, and as your Ladyship has expressed a desire to conceal the nature of your situation, as well as that you have made it known to me, I have thought it proper not to communicate your letter to the Lord-Lieutenant; nor shall I do so, unless I should see more prospect of success in an application to his Grace, or I should receive a communication of your desire that his Grace should be made acquainted with your wishes.

I have the honour to be, Madam,

Your Ladyship's most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[85.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 8th June, 1807.

I requested the Duke of Richmond to write to you respecting a communication which I had on Saturday with Mr. Foster; but he is gone to the Curragh, and I am not certain that he wrote before he set out, and therefore I trouble you. Mr. Foster says that Lord Camden promised Mr. Harman, who was member for Drogheda, that his son, the present Mr. Harman, should be a Commissioner of the Revenue in Ireland. The promise was made in 1804 or 1805, upon some occasion when Mr. Pitt's government was hard pressed, and Mr. Harman's support was obtained. Mr. Foster wishes that it should now be performed. I told him that till that moment I had never heard of Mr. Harman's name, much less of a promise made to him; and that I could only tell him there was no vacancy, and no probability of one, unless some member of one of the Boards should be dismissed. He will press the dismissal of a third member upon you, and the person you will probably fix upon is Mr. Dundas. Lord Melville has expressed to the Duke an interest in his favour; and he is the brother-in-law of the two La Touches, who I have some reason to believe are neutralised, and will not attend parliament. But whether you determine to dismiss Mr. Dundas or not, the Duke seemed to think that if another vacancy should be made at either of the Boards of

Revenue, it ought to be filled by the appointment of one of the candidates respecting whom he wrote to you.

Foster has already begun the war against the authority of the Lord-Lieutenant. I have had two or three very unpleasant discussions with him, and I imagine that they will end by calling upon the government in England to decide whether he or the Duke of Richmond is to govern this country.

Believe me, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[ENCLOSURE.]

List of Representative Peers who will attend Parliament.

Government.

Earl of Westmeath	..	..	..	..	..	will attend.
Roden	..	..	..	..	..	in Scotland.
Glandore	..	..	..	..	..	will attend.
Longford	..	..	..	..	..	do.
Enniskillen	..	..	..	..	..	do.
Erne	..	..	..	..	..	in England.
Londonderry	..	..	..	..	..	
Conyngham	..	..	..	..	..	in England.
O'Neill	..	..	..	..	..	will attend.
Caledon	..	..	..	..	..	abroad.
Limerick	..	..	..	..	..	in England.
Normanton	..	..	..	..	..	do.
Charleville	..	..	..	..	..	will attend.
Viscount Wicklow	..	..	..	..	..	in England.
Northland	..	..	..	..	..	do.
Carleton	..	..	..	..	..	do.
Longueville	..	..	..	..	..	
Lord Caher	..	..	..	..	..	do.
Callan	..	..	..	..	..	
Tyrawley	..	..	..	..	..	

Opposition.

Marquess of Headfort	..	..	..	..	..	in England.
Earl of Charlemont	..	..	..	..	..	will not attend.
Lucan	..	..	..	..	..	in England.
Donoughmore	..	..	..	..	..	will not attend.

Doubtful.

Earl of Clanricarde	..	*	..	..	..	in England (will not attend).
Bandon	..	..	..	..	..	will not attend.

[86.]

To Lord Tyrawley.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 9th June, 1807.

We have heard nothing of the death or even illness of the Colonel of the North Mayo militia; but you may depend upon it that, if that event should occur, the Lord-Lieutenant will appoint you to command that regiment. I perfectly recollect the circumstances which led to the appointment of the late Colonel Jackson. I know that if you had wished it, you would then have been the Colonel of the regiment, and I think that no man can complain if you should now be appointed to command it.

I will not now enter into the circumstances which induce the Lord-Lieutenant to prefer you to your son upon the present occasion, if it should offer; they will probably occur to you, and I will converse with you upon them when we shall meet.

I should like very much to meet you in London this summer, where I shall go for the meeting of Parliament.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[87.]

To the Archbishop of Dublin.

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 9th June, 1807.

Application has been made to the Lord-Lieutenant for his Grace's consent to an exchange between the Rev. William Lyster, who has the living of Cloghran, in the diocese of Dublin, and the Rev. James Nelligan, who has the living of Kilmactigue, in the diocese of Achonry, and his Grace has desired me to request your Grace would let him know whether you have any objection to this exchange.

It comes recommended in very strong terms by the Bishop of Killalla, on the ground that the health of Mr. Nelligan requires his removal to the neighbourhood of Dublin, and his Lordship is convinced that it is entirely unobjectionable; but as the Lord-Lieutenant has determined to withhold his consent to any exchange that may be proposed to him unless the Archbishops and Bishops in whose dioceses the livings may be situated

should give their assent, he is desirous that your Grace should favour him with your sentiments upon the proposed exchange.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

With the greatest respect,

Your Grace's most faithful and obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Hon. Thomas Pakenham.

[88.]

MY DEAR TOM,

Dublin Castle, 9th June, 1807.

We must get our troops over by the 22nd of this month, and I wish you would try what you can do with Sir James Stewart. I shall go to England by Sunday next, and I think your presence here in the next week to hurry the fellows away might have good consequences.

Ever yours most affectionately,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl O'Neill.

[89.]

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 9th June, 1807.

Mr. Trail has communicated to me your Lordship's letter of the 8th instant relative to Mr. Thompson. The office of which Mr. Thompson did the duty was that of the Secretary of the Post Office, in the absence of the two Messrs. Lee on account of their indisposition. He was called *Pro Secretary*, and he did this duty as the First Clerk of the Post Office. He was suspended from his office by the late Postmaster-General, the Earl of Donoughmore, in consequence of his having written a letter to his Lordship in which he remonstrated upon certain contracts which his Lordship had concluded for Post Office services without the consent of government; and I understand from your Lordship's letter to Mr. Trail that Mr. Thompson declines to resume the duties of his office, although he has received orders from your Lordship to resume them, till government will have passed a decision upon these contracts.

I need not inform your Lordship that the Postmaster-General had a right to dismiss, and certainly to suspend Mr. Thompson, if he had thought proper, without stating any reason for his act; but when Mr. Thompson, as an inferior officer of the Post Office, thought proper to remonstrate with Lord Donoughmore upon his acts, I conceive not only that his Lordship had a right, but that he acted as he ought in suspending Mr. Thompson from his office.

But government and your Lordship, at my suggestion, have felt a disposition not to consider the circumstances which led to Mr. Thompson's suspension, and we have been desirous that he should resume the duties of his situation in the Post Office, which he declines till a decision will have been passed upon the acts of his late superior.

Before I shall conclude this letter, I will give you my opinion upon these acts; but in the mean time I must say that Mr. Thompson has nothing to say to our opinion upon them, and that if, upon the receipt of the orders of your Lordship and Lord Clancarty, he does not forthwith resume the duties of his situation, it will become your duty to dismiss him and appoint another person to be First Clerk in the Post Office.

In respect to the contracts concluded by Lord Donoughmore, I have every reason to believe that they ought not to have been concluded without the consent of government, particularly considering that his Lordship had resigned his office when he concluded them, although his successor had not been appointed. But although the contracts ought not to have been concluded, it does not follow that they are not beneficial, and that they ought not to be confirmed.

The intention which I had, therefore, was to refer the whole subject to you and Lord Clancarty when you should come to Dublin, and to leave it to you to decide whether the contracts should be confirmed and acted upon hereafter. I propose to recommend to the Lord-Lieutenant to adhere to this conduct, and therefore the contractor will, of course, begin to carry his contract into execution on the 5th of July, if you should not before that time have decided that the contract is not a beneficial one for the public, and ought not to be confirmed.

But the decision on the contracts has nothing to do with Mr. Thompson. The question for him is, whether he will do the

duty of his office or not; and if he will not, he ought forthwith to be dismissed.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*To Richard Handcock, Esq.**

[90.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 10th June, 1807.

I have had the honour of receiving your letter relative to the arrest of two foreigners at Athlone, and I have to inform you that orders will be sent to the commanding officer at Athlone to forward them to Dublin under a military escort. I request you to deliver them over to him for that purpose.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Major-General Meyrick.

[91.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 10th June, 1807.

By desire of the Lord-Lieutenant, I have the honour to enclose a letter which I have received from Mr. St. Leger, of Templemore, near Tipperary, in which he has stated the nature and extent of the riots which have lately prevailed at fairs in the county of Tipperary, and his apprehensions of a riot at the fair which will take place at Tipperary on the 24th instant; and he has discussed the measures to be adopted as a remedy for this evil.

His Grace the Lord-Lieutenant requests that you will take the subject into your consideration, and adopt such measures as you may deem expedient to prevent the expected riot at the fair of Tipperary on the 24th instant. In respect to the other measures proposed by Mr. St. Leger, viz., to search for concealed arms the persons of those going to the fair, or to make a general search for arms throughout the county, they are of a nature upon which his Grace would wish you to consult the magistrates of the county in general before he suggests to you the propriety of carrying them into execution. In respect to the first, it

* Sovereign (Chief Magistrate) of Athlone.

appears to his Grace that it might produce the effect of depriving of their arms those individuals who should first reach the neighbourhood of Tipperary ; but that the alarm would be immediately given, and the great majority of those coming armed would conceal their arms till they should return to their homes. There would consequently be no riot ; but it is more than probable that if you should assemble a detachment in the town of Tipperary on the fair day, the business of the fair will be equally uninterrupted, and that the people will return peaceably to their homes.

In respect to the second measure proposed, viz., a general disarming of the people in the county of Tipperary, it is one of considerable importance and extent, which cannot be undertaken at all without very sufficient cause, of which the magistrates of the county in general must be fully sensible. In this case their assistance must be given, and many preparatory arrangements must be made to insure its success ; upon all of which points it is necessary that you should consult the magistrates before his Grace can suggest its adoption.

He requests you, therefore, to consult the magistrates of the county, with whom you are in the habit of communication, upon these subjects, and to make him acquainted with their opinion.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[92.]

*To Lady Anne Smith.**

MY DEAR ANNE,

Dublin Castle, 10th June, 1807.

I have received your letter respecting the appointment of Mr. Marshall to command a Dublin packet. There is no vacancy in a packet, and I cannot pretend to make an engagement to dispose in any particular manner of a vacancy which may occur.

If a vacancy should occur, I think it may be expected that the Duke of Richmond or I, who have been all over the world, have naval friends of merit, but not rich, to whom we may be desirous of giving such a provision.

Ever yours most affectionately,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* Sister of Sir Arthur Wellesley.

To Lord Castlereagh.

[93.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 11th June, 1807.

I return you many thanks for your letter of the 7th instant, which I received on Tuesday. The plan which you have settled for me will suit me exactly. I am ready and willing to serve government here as long as they choose, unless the troops should go abroad, and in that case not to join them till the moment of their embarkation.

I have settled the plan for the volunteering from the militia, which I think will answer; and if we should receive the orders for the employment of the permanent serjeants of the yeomanry on the recruiting service before Sunday or Monday next, I will arrange that service also before I leave Ireland.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. John Foster.

[94.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 11th June, 1807.

I did not receive your letters of the 10th till this morning, and as the Lord-Lieutenant is not yet returned to town, I am not able to give you an answer to that which relates to Mr. M'Neal, excepting to assure you that I will not fail to remind the Lord-Lieutenant of your wishes when an opportunity will occur, being certain that he will authorize me to tell you that they shall be gratified.

I have directed that measures may be taken to ascertain that Messrs. Merrick have paid the arrears stated in their petition for wool licences since the Union, of which, indeed, I have no doubt; and as they ought to be reimbursed, the best mode of doing the business will be that you should bring forward a motion on it in the supply. The only doubt I have on this mode of proceeding is that England will pay 15-17ths of a sum which has been received into the Irish Treasury.

I have not yet got the answer from the Post Office regarding the post road surveys. That office is indeed in a very deplorable state, and I wish we could prevail upon Clancarty to come over to arrange it.

I have endeavoured to prevail upon the Chancellor to have the assize deferred till the 8th of August. This is desirable in order that the Irish members may not be hurried away before the session is concluded, and will afford ample time to carry into execution the measures to be adopted in reference to the Road Act. But I will push them forward.

The appointment of the Commissioner for Howth Harbour is prepared, and will be signed by the Lord-Lieutenant on his arrival in Dublin.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[95.]

To John Cooke, Esq.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 13th June, 1807.

I have received your letter of the 7th instant, and I am much obliged to you for the information contained in that letter. I have already had communications with some of the magistrates residing in the county of Tipperary respecting the state of the country, and I shall be happy to hear from you again upon the same subject whenever anything may occur which shall appear to you to require the attention of government. I request the favour of you to correspond with Major-General Meyrick, who commands in the county of Tipperary, and who resides at Clonmel, upon any matters connected with the state of the county to which it may appear to you that his attention should be drawn.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[96.]

To the Hon. John Jocelyn.

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 13th June, 1807.

The Lord-Lieutenant has desired me to tell you that he is very sensible of the zeal for his government which has induced you to resign your seat at the Board of Customs in order to come into Parliament, and to assure you that his Grace will place you at the Board of Revenue again whenever you may vacate your seat in Parliament.

Ever, dear Sir, yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*To Lieut.-General Sir Charles Asgill, Bart.**

[97.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 16th June, 1807.

I am commanded by the Lord Lieutenant to acquaint you that his Grace having desired the Postmasters-General to report whether it was necessary to continue the dragoons stationed at Clonard Bridge and Dunshaughlin for the purpose of escorting the mails, their Lordships have reported that it is not necessary to have military escorts to accompany the mails on those lines at present.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[98.]

MY DEAR LORD,

No. 11, Harley Street, 21st June, 1807.

I enclose for your perusal some letters from magistrates of the county of Tipperary, and one from General Meyrick, who commands the troops in that county. These letters will point out to you the necessity of taking measures to get persons to act as magistrates upon whom and their exertions to keep the peace government can depend. In fact, there are many other grounds for it. The number of absentees, particularly of Protestants, has certainly increased since the Union; and but few gentlemen can now be found in any county to whom one would wish to entrust a commission of the peace. Besides this, the active and loyal magistrates by whose exertions the rebellion was either kept down in some counties or was overcome in others, have suffered considerably in their property, have received no adequate reward from government, and have had the mortification of seeing those preferred whose treason had caused their losses. Under these circumstances the trade of a justice of the peace is much disliked; and it is very difficult to prevail upon those to undertake it, or to exercise it with activity and effect, to whom it would be desirable to entrust it.

I will submit to you to-morrow a plan for giving salaries to four magistrates in each county where such may be necessary; and I rather think this measure will facilitate the progress of

* Commanding the troops in the Dublin district.

the Insurrection Law in its old form, as to these magistrates might be entrusted the power of transportation.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[99.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

No. 11, Harley Street, 21st June, 1807.

I arrived in London yesterday, and had a conversation with Lord Hawkesbury respecting the address from the College. His Lordship did not recollect from whom he had received it, but he believed from the Bishop of Meath; and he proposed to adopt the measure which we had thought of to remedy the inconvenience, viz., to publish an erratum in the Gazette. He wished for time to speak to his colleagues upon the subject before he should come to a final decision, and therefore I shall not write to the Provost till by the post of to-morrow night, or possibly later. If I should not be able to write to him to-morrow, of which I will apprise you, I request you to send for him, and tell him that I have no doubt that I shall be able to arrange this business to his satisfaction.

When I was coming away I observed that the pier of the basin at the Pigeon House was giving way, and I think it probable that it will fall down if the wind should set in with violence from the eastward, and will block up the entrance of the basin. This will put us to great inconvenience in reference to the despatch of our packets, and I wish that you would communicate upon the subject with the gentleman who is at the head of the ballast-office, in order that early measures may be adopted for the repair of this pier.

The captains of the packets complain that the number of bye-boats are not sufficient for the service of the expresses, and that they are frequently obliged to carry them.

As their pay is fixed in reference to their gains by passengers, I think they have reason to complain if they are employed in services *frequently* in which they cannot have those gains, more particularly as I understand that government pay more for the service of the bye-boats than they do for the packets. But there is one very easy mode of relieving the captains of the packets from the inconvenience of which they complain, and that is, to give orders that at all times the bye-boats should remain at Holyhead, and that at the moment one of them has

delivered an express in Dublin she may return to Holyhead. We scarcely ever require a bye-boat in Dublin, as we always despatch our expresses by the packet in the evening; and if we should want one by accident, we have only to take a packet, which occasional service would not be such a grievance as the constant call which there is now upon them at Holyhead.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[100.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 22nd June, 1807.

I have just received your letter of Thursday. I beg that you will open all the country letters which may come directed to me, which may be marked on service, and send me the others. Send me also all my English letters. I am quite surprised at the contents of the letter from Mr. Knox to Mr. Scott, but I will settle it here.

You do not mention what the places are which Mr. Bagwell wants.

The Lord-Lieutenant was informed by me of all the circumstances relating to Mr. Alby's proposed exchange. By his desire I wrote to the Bishop of Meath to know whether he had any objection to it, and showed him the Bishop's answer; and then by his direction told Mr. Alby that he had no objection to the exchange. The correspondence with the Bishop of Meath upon this subject will be found among my private letters which Dr. Busby has.

I have not yet seen Mr. Beckett, so as to ascertain precisely what is to be inserted in the Gazette.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Mr. Beckett will send you by the post this day a copy of the paragraph which is to be published in the Gazette relative to the address from the College. I have written to the Provost.

To the Provost of Trinity College.

[101.]

DEAR SIR,

London, 22nd June, 1807.

I made it my first business, upon my arrival in London, to

ascertain the circumstances which had occasioned the publication in the Gazette of the supposed address from the University of Dublin, and the subsequent despatch from the Secretary of State to the Lord-Lieutenant; and I found that they had originated in the error which I had suspected when I had the pleasure of seeing you. Some individual had communicated to Lord Hawkesbury the address which one of the gentlemen of the University had moved; and he inadvertently put it in the usual course to be disposed of as the other addresses which had been presented to His Majesty.

An erratum will, however, appear in the Gazette to-morrow night, which will set the whole matter right; and I hope that you and the gentlemen of the University will be satisfied that what has occurred originated in an oversight, and that the most early measures have been adopted to remedy it.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

With great respect,

Your most obedient and faithful humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[102.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

No. 11, Harley Street, 22nd June, 1807.

I arrived here on Saturday, and have seen Lord Hawkesbury twice since my arrival. I spoke to him as you desired about Dr. Busby, and he told me that he thought the best arrangement in all respects would be to leave to you the appointment to the bishopric. Thinking that Busby would prefer to be Dean of Winchester, I proposed that the present Dean should be promoted to the bishopric of Cork in case of the promotion of Lord John Beresford, and that Busby should get the deanery. In reply, Lord Hawkesbury said that that arrangement would be attended with greater difficulties than the promotion of Busby to the bishopric; that there were many claimants for the deanery; that the present Dean was not a man whose promotion to the Bench was at all desirable, particularly in Ireland, as, although a very learned man, he was a violent Protestant, and had published some works against the Roman Catholics; and that the promotion of Busby would remove all difficulties respecting the engagement claimed by Lord Westmoreland. Lord Hawkesbury ended by saying that he should have another

conversation with the Duke of Portland upon the subject before it would be finally decided.

I also think it probable that Ely will have Lord Shannon's riband. The Duke of Portland had made a kind of engagement to Lord Donegal that he should have a riband; but the Duke declares positively that this engagement did not refer to that which should be first vacant. When he made it, he said he imagined that there was a vacancy; and he told Mr. May (Lord Donegal's father-in-law) that government were under an engagement for one riband. As there was no vacancy at the time, the engagement supposed to have been made to Lord Donegal in this conversation cannot be supposed to apply to the first vacancy which should occur (that made by Lord Shannon's death), even if it should be allowed to be an engagement upon any future occasion. In the conversation which I had with the Duke I was glad to find that he was of opinion that it was absolutely necessary to put a stop to the practice of negotiating for and promising Irish patronage in this country. He said that he should make it a rule in every case to say that he should recommend to the Lord-Lieutenant, and nothing more.

I have settled with Lord Hawkesbury the mode in which he is to get out of the scrape respecting the College; and I hope to be able in the postscript of this letter to tell you that the form has been fixed of an erratum to be published in the Gazette on the subject. I will write a line to the Provost if I should find that the whole affair is settled.

I likewise enclose a letter from Mr. ———, on a subject on which he will speak to you. He is a member of the Commission of Inquiry in Ireland, and, considering his situation, was indecently violent in the Downpatrick election against Mr. Croker. The person respecting whom he writes was upon the list of gaugers, and in the usual manner had been instructed with a view to his appointment as gauger. It has generally been customary to appoint to the vacancies in the office of gauger those who should be first upon the list of gaugers in a state of instruction; and it had come to the turn of ——— to be appointed. But he was a violent opponent of Mr. Croker's, who has made it a particular request that ——— might not receive his appointment. This is the real reason for not giving it to him. Besides this, there is an ostensible reason, viz., that he swore, upon his examination at the election, that he had no office in the revenue, and that he

had never received instructions with a view to his appointment to any such office. This is a falsehood upon oath.

If I had remained in Ireland long enough to see Mr. ———, I should have declined to give him any answer respecting the motives which induced government to withhold ———'s commission, and I shall now send him none in writing.

There is nothing new. People appear much annoyed by the state of the Continent, and by the disasters in Egypt. They are all pleased with the success of your government in Ireland.

Tell the Duchess that I left her snuff at the Duke of Cumberland's yesterday.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The business of the College is settled ; and Mr. Beckett will send by this post to Mr. Trail a copy of the paragraph which is to be published in the Gazette.

[103.]

To the Right Hon. George Knox.

DEAR SIR,

London, 24th June, 1807.

Mr. Trail has communicated to me the purport of a conversation which he had had with Mr. Scott, and the copy of a letter which you had written to that gentleman relative to the proposed appointment of yourself to a seat at the Board of Customs in Ireland. Since the receipt of this letter from Mr. Trail I have had communications with his Grace the Lord-Lieutenant and the King's Ministers upon the same subject ; and I have been directed to inform you that the Lord-Lieutenant conceived that you were to have a seat at the Board of Accounts, and a pension of 400*l.* per annum, or two pensions each of 400*l.* per annum, and to be granted in the two first years. It was not imagined that you would have any objection to a seat at the Board of Customs instead of one at the Board of Accounts, and I always considered that it would be necessary to recommend that you should have a pension as well as this office, although possibly not of the same amount.

I have, however, now been directed to inform you that you will have in this year a pension of 400*l.* per annum, and in the next year another pension of the same amount ; and that when

this second pension will be granted to you, his Grace the Lord-Lieutenant will consider your seat at the Board of Revenue to be at his disposal.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. John Foster.

[104.]

MY DEAR SIR, No. 11, Harley-Street, 24th June, 1807.

I enclose you the drafts of the Customs and Excise Bills, together with a brief of the Stamp Bill. I expect to receive the Stamp Bill to-morrow, when I will forward it to you.

I likewise enclose a letter from the Chief Justice of the King's Bench to the Chancellor respecting a clause in the Stamp Act of last Session, and I shall be obliged to you if you will have a clause inserted in the new Act to repeal that which is complained of in the letter from the Chief Justice.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

[105.]

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD, London, 25th June, 1807.

I have shown the Duke of York the papers regarding the volunteers to be received by the line from the militia, of which he has approved. He appears disposed, however, to allow the Colonels of militia to choose the regiments into which their men shall volunteer, and he has desired that a private circular letter may accompany the public letter, of which I enclose a draft. You will be so kind as to show these papers to the Duke, and to take his orders upon them; or, if he should approve of them, have them prepared to be sent out as soon as the letter from the Secretary upon this subject, which I imagine to be necessary, will arrive in Ireland.

You will make me acquainted with the answers which you will receive to this private circular letter.

You will observe that I have altered the note and memorandum. Upon perusing it, I thought it not so clear as I

wished it to be, and I therefore drew up a note and memorandum according to the form which you will find enclosed. .

Direct your private letters to my house in Harley-Street, and write them *pretty well* if possible.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[106.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 25th June, 1807.

The Bow-Street officer who was sent to Liverpool with the description of — has taken him, and will proceed from thence to Dublin with him. I am very much afraid that the examination which has been made here of — — may have a tendency to discover our informer, particularly if we are not very cautious in our examinations of him and — hereafter. In the first place I recommend that both — and — may be prevented from having any communication with any body either in the gaol or out of it. Let them be confined in separate prisons, and neither ought to know that the other is taken. In respect to their examinations, the object ought to be to discover where each has been and what he has been doing since he left Ireland, and particularly — ought to be pressed very closely respecting the object of his late return from the continent. It is obvious that — and — have not been together, and therefore it is unnecessary to ask either of them a question about the other; and such a question might lead to the discovery of our informer, from whom alone we received the intelligence that they were likely to be found together.

As soon as they will have been examined, and if nothing of importance shall be discovered by their examination, they ought to be allowed to depart from the King's dominions again either with a formal pardon or without, according to the opinions which the gentlemen of the long robe may entertain whether the effect of such a pardon would be to weaken the Banishment Act in reference to them.

I enclose a letter from the Post-office respecting the steps which have been taken under the Mail Coach-Road Act; and I shall be obliged to you if you will explain it to the Duke, and take his directions to have any additional steps taken which may be pointed out by the Act.

We shall be in some difficulty respecting the Irish customs. It will be impossible to pass the bill before the 7th at soonest, and possibly the 8th of August, and the existing law will expire on the 5th; but provision will be made in the new law that it shall take effect from the 5th. Although this will be done, I doubt whether on the 6th, 7th, and 8th, there will be any power to enforce the collection of the customs; and it might be possible to create a riot in Ireland upon such an attempt. My present opinion is that we ought to have Custom-House holidays on the 6th, 7th, and 8th; that we ought to keep our own secret regarding the state of the law as far as may be possible; that if any persons should attempt to take away their goods on those days, or to land them without paying duty, the officers should give such persons notice that a demand will be made for the duty, and as far as possible an account ought to be taken of the goods landed or taken away; but no resistance ought to be made to the taking away.

The same line ought to be pursued in reference to the duties on exports. Be so kind as to turn this subject over in your mind, and let me have your opinion upon it as soon as possible by express; and if I should receive any positive opinion upon it from the Ministers here, I will make you acquainted with it.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[107.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 26th June, 1807.

I have just received your letter of the 22nd, but as I have not been able to see Lord Hawkesbury, I have been obliged to write to him respecting your wishes for Busby. As Parliament meets this day, it is probable that I shall not receive an answer from him, but I think you may consider what I wrote to you on the 22nd as conclusive, although I do not recommend to you to act upon it till I shall hear further and positively that the Duke of Portland gives up the Bishopric to your disposal, and that he will not adopt the arrangement which you have proposed in reference to the Dean of Winchester.

I will take care of the Bishop of Waterford's friend for a commission.

Mr. Jacob is a Protestant magistrate of the county of Wexford, who was removed from the commission of the peace when Ponsonby was Chancellor, and then resigned his corps of yeomanry, which declined to serve any longer, and orders were given that they might be disbanded. Lately Lord Ely proposed that he should have his corps again; and the proposition was brought forward in such a form as that it would have appeared that government had pressed Mr. Jacob to accept the command of it. This I refused to recommend to you, but said that if Mr. Jacob would apply to have his corps of yeomanry re-embodied, as any other person would, no objection would be made to his application. Littlehales knows the whole story; and I recommend that if Jacob has made a proper application, he may have his corps.

I enclose a note from Perceval, respecting the appointment of a Commissioner of Appeals for Mr. Lyne, the friend of Mr. Smith of Westmeath. Smith is rather out of temper on the subject, and Perceval has urged that he should have this office if it should be vacant, of which I have no intelligence. If it should be vacant, I propose to offer it to Hans Hamilton for his brother, instead of that of assistant-barrister, both being of the same value; and if he won't take it, I will tell Smith that he shall have it for Mr. Lyne.

I will send you an express with the numbers of this night's division.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I have desired Mr. Pollock to call upon you if he should have any thing to communicate likely to interest you.

[108.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 27th June, 1807.

We had a fierce debate in the House of Commons last night; the division was 350 to 155. Lord Howick, in the course of his speech, accused the Irish government of having threatened Mr. Grogan with the loss of his estate, and Mr. Whitbread

afterwards read from a paper an account that Mr. Grogan had been promised his estate by Mr. Ormsby, the Solicitor for Forfeited Estates, if he would vote for the government candidates. I answered that not one word had been said to Mr. Grogan, by authority of government, respecting his estate; and I am convinced I am right, not only from a letter which my brother gave me two days ago from a relation of Mr. Grogan's, desiring a letter of recommendation to me that he might solicit the restoration of his estate, but from my recollection of my own sentiments and of what passed in consequence at the time of the communication with Mr. Grogan.

I have always been adverse to the measure of restoring estates which may have been forfeited for treason, and in the communication with Mr. Grogan I was anxious to avoid anything that should have the appearance of an engagement that he should have his estate again. As well as I can recollect, therefore, I desired that he might be apprised that I was much surprised (considering all that had passed) to hear that he had any doubt about the propriety of avoiding to connect himself again with Mr. Colclough. I believe this was the amount of the communication. I wish that you would let me know exactly what passed, as nearly as you can recollect. If you and I agree in our recollection of the circumstances, it would be satisfactory to me to know from the person who was sent to Mr. Grogan what he said to him, or rather, what he understood that he was authorized to say.

I wish also that you would let me know what passed between you and Bouchier respecting his voting for Talbot. As well as I recollect, it was pointed out to him that at the very moment he was promising Mr. Ponsonby to vote for any candidate for the county of Dublin who should set up against Falkiner, I was endeavouring to prevail upon Lord Westmeath to keep him in his office.

Let me have the answer to these two points by express as soon as you can, in case anything further should be said on the former, or anything upon the latter; and I declare that throughout the elections I don't recollect any other instance of interference in favour of anybody.

I enclose a letter from Lord Limerick and a petition, and shall be obliged to you if you will be so kind as to have the regular steps taken upon these papers. It would be very

desirable, in my opinion, to have the circumstances of the case of the Bretts inquired into. I am afraid that throughout Ireland there are too many instances of persons who have suffered, and are now suffering, on account of their exertions to preserve the peace of the country, and we must avoid increasing the number. If it be true that the Bretts have been obliged to bring to their house two of their relations, that alone is an expense to them and a loss to their relations which would appear to require compensation.

I am obliged to you for your information respecting the Threshers in Sligo gaol and the late riot at Maghera. I think that the only measure which could be adopted has been taken respecting the latter.

It is so difficult to know the truth respecting anything in Ireland, that it is not possible for me now to decide between the Commissioners of Paving and the College. But, at all events, the former have no power at present to enforce their orders upon the latter, and therefore they may deem it prudent to refrain from pressing them.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[109.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 28th June, 1807.

I omitted to mention to you yesterday that it is necessary that a letter should go from you to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, directing that measures may be taken immediately for procuring volunteers from the militia to the line, under the Act of the last session of Parliament.

By referring to the Act you will see that the King's commands are necessary.

All the preparatory arrangements are made ; and if your orders should go to-morrow, they will be carried into execution as soon as they will arrive in Ireland.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. John Foster.

[110.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 28th June, 1807.

I send you a bill received this morning. I don't know whether the clauses proposed by the law officers are included in the paper in your handwriting, as I have not read the latter, or are, in your opinion, necessary to insure your object. I request you to consider them solely with that view, and to include them in the bill, or reject them, as you may think advisable. If you should include them, I would substitute a mile for half a mile. I likewise enclose a memorial from the barristers who acted as Commissioners for the trial of election cases in the last session of Parliament. I imagine that, in order to give them relief, we must alter the Act of Parliament.

Ever yours sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[111.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 28th June, 1807.

I saw Lord Hawkesbury last night, and he desired me to request that, as soon as possible, you would send over the official recommendation of the Bishop of Cork (Lord John Beresford) to be Bishop of Raphoe, and of Dr. Busby to be Bishop of Cork. I am glad to find by your letter of the 25th, which I have just received, that this arrangement will be the most agreeable to your wishes.

Since my arrival here I have inquired respecting the claims of the Bishop of Clonfert, and I find that they are not considered to be very strong.

This arrangement for the bishoprics, as it will vacate nothing in Ireland, will put an end to all application for church preference at present.

The Duke of Portland desired me to recommend to you Dr. Thomas Hawkins, the son of the late Bishop of Raphoe. I think that you will do well to appoint him one of your chaplains, as it will please the Duke and be considered a compliment to the character of the late Bishop, which was highly respectable.

Nothing new.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[112.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 29th June, 1807.

I received your letters of the 26th last night, and have communicated with Lord Hawkesbury this morning respecting Busby's views. He says it is impossible to take a person and make him Bishop of Cork, only because he has preferment which would suit Busby; that, as your friend, Busby should be provided for if he would not take the bishopric when opportunity would offer; but that in the mean time it ought to be offered to him, and if he won't accept of it, government should think of somebody else.

I think, therefore, that you will do well to recommend Busby, as you proposed to do, if government here should know of no person in this country possessing preferment which would suit him. Great difficulty will attend the arrangement on any other plan excepting that of his acceptance.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I have just heard a report that in a great action which was fought on the 14th, the Russians were completely defeated with the loss of 40,000 men and 80 pieces of cannon; that Beningsen and Markoff were killed, and the French got possession of Königsberg and Memel. I believe this account to be true, as it has come to England in more than one channel.

[113.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 29th June, 1807.

I have received your letters of the 25th. You have done quite right about the bât and forage money, and I beg you to continue the Lord-Lieutenant's prohibition to issue any till Lord Harrington will arrive in Ireland, which will be early in next week.

I think that you may venture to discontinue the permanent duty of the yeomanry in Sligo. But I recommend that you should converse with Anstruther on the means of throwing more troops into Connaught, Sligo particularly, towards the end of

August. The means to which I refer are only those of giving them cover.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lieut.-Colonel Gordon.

[114.]

MY DEAR COLONEL,

London, 29th June, 1807.

I enclose copies of the papers regarding the volunteers from the militia, which you may keep, as I have had others made. According to His Royal Highness's desire, I have had letters written to the Colonels of militia to request they will state whether they are of opinion that the men would enlist into certain regiments rather than in others, and to inform them that if they should entertain that opinion, endeavours will be made to prevail upon His Royal Highness to fix upon the regiments which they will name, as those to receive the volunteers from the regiments under their command.

There is no occasion for delaying the preparatory measures till their answers will be received, and I beg to draw your attention to the note in the "Memorandum for the Commander of the Forces," suggesting that the officers of the line who are to receive the volunteers from the militia might be sent to Ireland as soon as possible, with directions to place themselves under the orders of the Adjutant-General.

I enclose the case of a Captain Gerrard, which has been sent to me by Mr. Pollock, an Irish gentleman who has made himself very useful to government at different periods, to which I shall be obliged to you if you will draw the attention of His Royal Highness.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[115.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 29th June, 1807.

I have received your letters of the 26th. I agree entirely with you respecting the employment of our informer ; such a measure

would do much mischief. It would disgust the loyal of all descriptions, at the same time that it would render useless our private communications with him, as no further trust would be placed in him by the disloyal. I think that it might be hinted to him that he would lose much of his profit if, by accepting the public employment of government, he were to lose the confidence of his party, and consequently the means of giving us information.

Upon conversing with the ministers here, I found them very much disinclined to continue the Act at present existing, and that having considered the new bill, they approved of its provisions. I acknowledge that I am not of that opinion, and I should prefer to continue the existing law till the next session of Parliament, and then to bring in a measure well considered in all its points.

However, as the ministers, particularly those of the House of Commons, are of a different opinion, I have consented, and the bill will be brought in with only one material alteration which I have made. That is, I have struck out the proviso that no decision of the quarter sessions shall be valid without the consent of the superintending King's counsel. I have done this first, because I thought that the proviso threw upon the King's counsel a very heavy and a very unpleasant responsibility, at the same time that the object, which was to secure a just and merciful execution of the law, would be equally attained by the recommendation of the King's counsel to the Lord-Lieutenant. Secondly, it appeared to me that this power in the hands of the King's counsel would give disgust to the magistrates, and that it would be found difficult to prevail upon any of them to act.

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will send me the letter which Lord Donoughmore wrote to me respecting the Post Office.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[116.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 30th June, 1807.

I find, upon referring again to the Act of Parliament, that there is no occasion for the King's commands previous to the

issue of the orders relative to the volunteering from the militia ; you will, therefore, issue them as soon as you please ; but I believe that you will have to alter the letter according to the enclosed draft. If, however, it should be written, and you should not think the alteration necessary, you may as well send it as it is.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Copy of proposed alteration.

I have received the directions of his Grace the Lord-Lieutenant to inform you that it is his Grace's intention to carry into execution the Act.

His Grace has accordingly directed that it may be made known to the soldiers.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[117.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 30th June, 1807.

I have looked over my papers and talked to Long respecting the claims to the vacant Deaneries. In the first place, I must mention to you that the Deanery of Tuam is not of half the value of the Deanery of Limerick ; and if it were possible, I should recommend you to avoid giving the former to Lord —, as it is called a sinecure and can be held with any other livings, for the best of which he will forthwith press you.

Long says that the person who has the best claim is Mr. Leslie, the member for the county of Monaghan, for his brother. Mr. Pitt promised him preferment in the Church, and when Dr. Kearney was made Bishop of Ossory, he declared that he would not consent to that promotion unless the Doctor would engage to give Mr. Leslie the first and best piece of preferment in the diocese. This the Doctor promised ; but, as Bishop, he has not performed his promise. Pitt's promise, therefore, to Mr. Leslie remains unperformed to this day, and Mr. Leslie has this additional claim to it, that he has always served well and willingly, and he has not, as others have, demanded a fresh subsidy for every service. Add to this that he was the first who proposed the exchange of the Limerick Deanery ; and although he kept

his temper better than others when he was told it could not be done, he told me he hoped that if it were done for anybody it would be for him. The next claimant is Mr. French, member for Roscommon, for his brother, who is a Dean already. The only question respecting him is, whether the Deanery which he has is better or worse than that of Tuam. As well as I can recollect, it is 800*l.* per annum; but whether it is better or worse, Long tells me that French has always acknowledged that Leslie had a better and a prior claim to his.

The next claim is Dean Carleton's. You will see all that has passed about his claim in the memorandum of applications, and in the letters from Lord Carleton to me, and me to him, among my private correspondence in Busby's possession. I believe that Dean Carleton's Deanery is worse than Tuam, and that the former would rise in value if transferred to another person. If the values can be made nearly equal, it might be proper to remove Dean Carleton to Tuam, and give his Deanery to Leslie. But if there be a great difference in the values, we shall not satisfy Leslie with the worst; and I am afraid that we shall not satisfy Dean Carleton's claim even with the best; and thus by an attempt to oblige two people, we shall fail to oblige either. However, that is a subject for consideration.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[118.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 1st July, 1807.

I received last night your letter of the 28th regarding the disposal of the Deanery of Tuam. I have nothing to say in addition to my letter of yesterday, excepting that Mr. French, to whom I spoke yesterday in the House of Commons regarding the preferment already in possession of his brother, told me that it is worth about 500*l.* per annum; but that as it was in the neighbourhood of his house in Roscommon, he was not desirous to exchange it for another of but small superior value. He did not know, and I did not tell him, of the vacancy at Tuam.

I did not know of the application of Lord Uxbridge's relation. However, I am afraid that you will find it necessary to

attend to the applications of the Members of Parliament, and that the question respecting Tuam will be between Lord —— (supposing you intend to offer him that Deanery) and Mr. Leslie.

I will see Lord —— and try to have something done for him.

Mr. ——, the member for ——, was with me yesterday, and desired me to ask you to appoint his son a Commissioner of Stamps. These offices are worth 500*l.* per annum, and I think it would secure him, if he were assured that he should have one when it could be vacated.

We had a debate last night, and a division on the new formation of the Committee of Finance. Government 244, Opposition 149. The Addingtons and all the Saints voted with the latter; and it was generally understood to be their strongest question. Canning made an excellent speech.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Duke of Richmond to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR ARTHUR,

1st July, 1807.

Thank you for your account of the division. What is thought of it? I suppose well; for the ministerial papers rejoice, the others say nothing. You will have got my letter of the 26th about the bishopric of Cork, probably soon after you wrote on the 28th. I shall, therefore, delay till I hear again sending a recommendation for that, but will send that for Raphoe, which may either be acted on or wait for the other, as you like. Nothing could be more handsome than Mr. Jocelyn's conduct on the subject.

You remember Mr. Lambert wanted a place which could be vacated for his son. I desired him to inquire further what it was, and explained that till I did know I could not promise. He has been to me to say he finds it a place of too much responsibility for so young a man. This is not common in this country.

Sir H. O'Reilly is in distress about his son. Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell's letter I send you: pray return it. In consequence of it I have told Sir Hugh it is not possible for me to interfere; but promised I would write to you to see what you could do with Mulgrave and the Horse Guards. To them you had better not mention Campbell's letter.

I send you a statement of the claims of the Bishop of Ferns: in my opinion strong ones. You must also remember that Lord Egremont is very anxious about him. Pray mention this, and show the paper to Lord Hawkesbury. I find Mr. Preston's vacancy was filled some time ago, and I wonder Mr. Smith did not know it. Sir J. Newport's attack is of no consequence,

nor Mr. Whitbread's. Trail has written to you what passed as to Grogan, which is quite correct on the part of government.

Believe me yours faithfully,

RICHMOND.

[ENCLOSURE.]

About nineteen years ago Dr. Cleaver was consecrated Bishop of Cork, and immediately translated to Ferns, to which a borough belonged, and where it was thought advisable an English Bishop should be on that account. He was obliged to finish a house begun by his predecessor at the expense of above 10,000*l*. In the rebellion his house was attacked, and he lost nearly to the amount of 4000*l*. He does not claim a promise, but he states that next thing to a promise was given him that he should succeed to Raphoe or some good see. He has had several junior Bishops provided for over his head, and Lord John Beresford, to whom he finds a positive promise has been given, was not on the bench when he was given to understand he should succeed to Raphoe, namely, three years ago. He now conceives he is little likely to succeed to any good bishopric in this country, and his family having been a good deal alarmed during the rebellion, he would readily take any English bishopric, even Bristol.

[119.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 1st July, 1807.

I have received your three letters of the 27th, and that of the 28th.

I request you to send the commission for Mr. Flood to Mr. Handcock, near Athlone, and call upon him to send the fees for it.

I think that if you appoint the supernumerary clerk in the Hearth Money Office; it ought to be Kane's son.

You will see in the letter from Mr. Meeke to me, to which I have before referred you, where ——— is to be found. If you will send me the Christian name of Hautenville, I will recommend him for a commission.

You are quite right in respect to the Customs Act. Although the Annual Act should expire, that of Charles the Second will be in force, and all, or nearly all the articles on which duties are levied under the former, pay duties under the latter: therefore the business of the Custom-house may continue as usual. The officers of the Customs will take an account of the articles imported and exported, giving notice to the merchants that they will be called upon for the duties under the Act now in its progress through the House of Commons, which will take place from the 5th of this month.

I am afraid I destroyed Flint's letter respecting ———; but I think it probable that he may have a copy of it, and if he should have one it shall go to you with this express.

I think it best to keep ———'s case undecided for some time longer.

I shall be obliged to you if you will send me over the papers regarding the bargains with the proprietors of the boroughs of Tralee and Athlone.

Foster spoke to me yesterday on the subject of placing a distributor of stamps at the Custom-house. He says that such an appointment will be very useful to the business of the revenue. I wish that you would communicate on the subject with the Commissioners of Stamps, and let me know the result.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. John Foster.

[120.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 2nd July, 1807.

I return the Irish Fruits Bill, and shall be much obliged to you if you will send me the Bill respecting the Registry of Arms which I sent to you with the Insurrection Bill.

I spoke to Huskisson yesterday respecting the Scotch Distilleries. The measure to which they intend to resort at present is the same as that to which they resorted before, and is to continue till the 1st of May next. That day is fixed in order to remind them of the necessity of adopting some permanent measure at an early period in the next session.

I stated to Perceval your objections to the Insurrection Bill. He thinks that it is desirable to propose the measure nearly in the form in which it was proposed by the late government; and, afterwards, if any part of it should be found by experience to be liable to the objections which you have stated, to alter it by new provisions. I shall therefore have the Bill copied as it now stands,

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[121.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 2nd July, 1807.

I have received your letter of the 30th June by express. Its contents in respect to Mr. Grogan and Mr. Bouchier are exactly in conformity with my recollection of the circumstances.

I wish that you would send O'Grady's opinion to Burke, and desire to have an opinion from him and Plunket upon the Farming Society.

You did not send Mr. Jennings's deputation. But I consider it best to defer any decision on that subject till I shall return to Ireland.

I send you some letters.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[122.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 2nd July, 1807.

I approve entirely the alterations you have made as well in the private as in the public circular letters. The latter cannot be issued till the 24th of July, as I see by looking into the Act of Parliament; and you will do well to write the former as soon as you will receive this letter. Send me at as early a period as may be possible an abstract of the answers you will receive to these private letters; and I think that it would save time if you were to write to the Colonel, as well as to the Lieutenant-Colonel, in cases in which you know that the former is in England.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

There is no necessity for a letter from the Secretary of State, as you will see by referring to the Act of Parliament. The Act cannot be altered this year; and with respect to the height of the men, that is a question for the military authorities, and not for me, to decide.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[123.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 5th July, 1807.

I enclose a letter from Colonel Jones of the Leitrim militia on the subject of his resignation of that corps. Clements, the member for the county of Leitrim, mentioned to me two or three days ago the possibility that Jones would resign, and expressed a wish to get the regiment. I told him that I should communicate his wishes to you. In fact he has the best claim to the regiment. His father raised, and was Colonel of the regiment. He is in his father's situation in the county, and you have settled that he shall have the patronage of the county; I therefore recommend that he should have the regiment of militia.

I likewise enclose a letter which was put into my hands some days ago by Lord Castlereagh regarding the Queen's County militia, to which Lord Henry Moore lays claim, if the command should be resigned by Lord Castlecoote. Lord Henry Moore may be considered the representative of Lord Drogheda; and he has certainly a fair claim to the command of the militia of the Queen's County. But what passed at the last election shows clearly that Pole is the most powerful man in that county, and I should therefore recommend that this appointment may not be made without consulting his wishes, which I am sure will be in favour of Lord Henry Moore.

I am very anxious to hear what you have determined respecting the Bishopric of Cork. I had proposed an arrangement to Lord Hawkesbury, which I thought might have answered. Gerald has a stall at Westminster which I proposed that he should give to Busby, and make Gerald the Bishop. It appears that Busby could not hold the stall at Westminster with his Canonry of Windsor; but we might have got an exchange for Gerald of at least 1000*l.* per annum, which Busby might have held. But Lord Hawkesbury was determined either to have Busby or the next fittest man; and he did not think that the appointment of Gerald would facilitate the refusal to be made to Lord Longueville.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[124.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 6th July, 1807.

I did not receive your letter of the 1st July till last night. I will answer that respecting the bishopric after I shall have seen Lord Hawkesbury.

The Bishop of Ferns' claim is a very strong one, but I have reason to believe that it is intended to make him an archbishop upon the first vacancy.

In respect to Mrs. ——— we must not forget that, although her husband was a bishop and a learned man, he was deep in all the revolutionary plans, and suspected of knowing and concealing more of the rebellion than a person of his character ought. But if Mrs. ———'s claim were unaccompanied by these little drawbacks, I should still be of opinion that at present it is impossible to attend to it. We must keep our majority in Parliament, and, with such a minority as there is against us, that can be done only by a good use of the patronage of the government.

Mr. Maclean has no claim to a pension; they forget that you can grant only 1200*l.* per annum.

Your conversation with Hamilton Rowan was most judicious, and will doubtless have a good effect upon him.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[125.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 6th July, 1807.

I have received your letters of the 1st and 2nd of July. I conceive that it would be best to take no further notice of the trees of liberty at Tipperary. Lord Landaff will be tired of furnishing trees as often as those planted will wither.

I enclose a note from the proprietor of the *Correspondent*. I desired that the *Times* might always be sent over, and I will now desire that the *Courier* may be sent when it is possible. One of the papers which arrived by the express was always sent to the Lord-Lieutenant, and the other, the *Times*, to the *Correspondent*. Of course, that part of the arrangement must

depend upon the person who opens the packet; but I recommend that the *Correspondent* should, as far as may be possible, have the paper which he wishes for.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[126.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 9th July, 1807.

I enclose some papers, with memorandums on the back of them, to which I beg to draw your attention.

Meeke's letter does not now signify (although Mr. Busby certainly has it), as you have the names of the gentlemen intended to be the clerks in the Account Office, among whom he is.

I return the draft of the letter to the Commissioners of Excise, with the draft of the return called for, which I request you to send.

The state of Tipperary is very unpleasant, and that of the Queen's County Militia particularly so, if the suspicion of General Meyrick be well founded. But I think the fact stated in your letter of the 4th is not sufficient to warrant a general suspicion of the corps, notwithstanding that it is a proof of a defect in discipline, and shows that they ought to be removed from that place. Let me hear from you soon about ———.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[127.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 11th July, 1807.

I propose to vacate my seat for Tralee this day, and to move for a new writ for that borough; and I request you to desire Mr. Justice Day to have *Evan Foulkes, Esq., of Southampton Street, London*, returned for that borough. I request you also to desire Mr. Justice Day, Mr. Handcock, and Mr. Pennefather to draw upon Messrs. Drummond, Charing Cross,

London, for 5000*l.* British cash, at ten days' sight. This is as good as cash, but it will be very convenient to us here if you can delay to give them these directions.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Evan Foulkes, Esq., of Southampton Street, London, to be the member for Tralee.

[128.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 13th July, 1807.

I enclose a letter from Mr. Webber, from which you will perceive that he declines to accept the bishopric, although he is not unwilling to go to Ireland.

It rests with you now to determine what you will do. Lord Bathurst spoke to me the other day on the subject of his former tutor, Mr. Plumptree, who has a stall, I believe, at Worcester, and other things, amounting to about 600*l.* per annum, to give up. I told him of the answer which had been given to me respecting Gerald, which referred principally to the impracticability of giving Busby two dignities in the Church; and Lord Bathurst appeared to think that it would not answer to propose the arrangement to Plumptree. However, you may be of a different opinion, and I mention him for your consideration.

I have received your letters of the 7th, 8th, and 9th. I should recommend to Mr. Hewitt to go into the Church. All that he can look to from office will be about 1000*l.* a-year, and the prospect of it is not very near. But in the Church, with his claims for provision, with his powerful friends, and the means in the power of the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, he has a better chance of getting more.

I will endeavour to settle Mrs. Leeson's business as she wishes. I apprehend that nothing can be done for her, although it may for her son and daughter.

I have already spoken to Lord Hawkesbury about the militia. They have now in contemplation some plans for procuring drafts from the militia for the line; and they are apprehensive of the consequences of violating by any additional measures the prejudices and disinclination of the officers of the militia. But

I think I shall prevail with him to remove some of the Irish militia from Ireland, which will be one step gained, at all events; and it is not impossible that I may prevail to have measures adopted to replace them either by English or Scotch militia, or by Scotch Fencibles.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[129.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 14th July, 1807.

Since I wrote to you yesterday I have seen Sir Evan Nepean. He says that he recollects to have had a conversation with Mr. Pitt on the state of the Church in Ireland, in which, among other arrangements, he recommended that Dean St. Lawrence might be made Bishop of Cork, and that Mr. ——— might have his deanery; in answer to which Mr. Pitt told him that he was afraid that he had already engaged himself to Lord Westmoreland to give the bishopric of Cork to Mr. ———. That in consequence of Pitt's desire, he inquired respecting ———'s character, and the result of his inquiries was nothing very favourable or at all otherwise.

It is so difficult to find an Irishman in London, that I have not been able to see Lord John Beresford this day; but I will endeavour to see him to-morrow, and will write to you at all events.

There are accounts from Egypt of a date as late as the 6th May. It appears that the loss sustained by General Stewart was of his advanced guard, of which several officers and 733 men are missing. Of the missing, 466 are prisoners with the Turks, and perfectly well treated. The total loss is about 1000 men. Colonel Macleod of the 78th is dead.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I have read over Mr. Darby's memorial, and I am sorry to say that there are not less than fifty similar cases, and no means of remedying even one of them. The Union absorbed all the patronage of government, and prevented Lord Cornwallis from

remunerating the few loyalists to whom he might have been inclined to give a reward. Thus they have all fallen to you; and there are no means of rewarding even one of them.

[130.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 15th July, 1807.

You will have observed that government have in contemplation some new military measures. They are first to increase the militia in England and Scotland 36,000 men by a new ballot, and that in Ireland 8000 men; in the mean time to draft from the two former into the line two-fifths of their present numbers, which it is supposed will give about 21,000 men, and from the latter two-fifths of their establishment, which it is supposed will give about 8000: total increase to the line, 29,000 or 30,000 men.

By adopting this measure of drafting 8000 men from the Irish militia, it will be necessary to stop the draft of 3000 under the Act of Parliament, for which the letters were to be sent out, I understand, on the 25th of July. I will write to you more fully on this part of the subject in a day or two, when the plan will be more matured. In the mean time it is as well that the letters should be prepared, although not sent out till Littlehales will hear further from me.

I have not been able to prevail upon the ministers to adopt the plan of a reciprocal exchange of the militia of the two countries, although I went far towards it. However, I believe I shall be able to prevail upon them to renew the law by which the Irish militia might be sent out of Ireland; and they promise to replace with regular troops any that we may send over.

Lord Castlereagh told me last night that they wanted to draw from Ireland 3000 men in addition to those already brought away, that is to say, the 7th and 8th from Dublin, and the 3rd and another regiment from the south of Ireland; and they promise to fill Ireland with troops as soon as the 2nd battalions will have received the drafts from the militia. I apprised him of our state; but, as you know, it is vain to talk of internal danger when they think they want the troops for foreign service. I said that by every post you urged me to point out the deficiency

of troops, and that certainly you would expect that their numbers would be increased rather than diminished.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[131.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 16th July, 1807.

After I had written to you yesterday I saw Lord Hawkesbury, and we agreed that Westmoreland should be told that, considering the character of Mr. ———, it was impossible to make him a Bishop, and it is expected that there the matter will end.

I have nothing more to tell you about taking away the troops. Lord Hawkesbury, was to meet the Cabinet last night, and to write to you this day. I acknowledge that although it is most desirable not to weaken the force of Ireland, I don't think it will be attended with danger if they are reinforced again in six weeks or two months.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Since writing the above, I find that you are to lose only the two regiments in Dublin.

To James Trail, Esq.

[132.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 16th July, 1807.

I have received your letters of the 11th and 13th. The officer at Mallow appears to me to have conducted himself very ill, and he ought to be informed that it is his duty to give assistance to the magistrates for the preservation of the peace when they will require it.

I can give no answer to Mr. Cuthbert till I shall have ascertained the sentiments of the Lord-Lieutenant.

There is no possibility of giving money to Lord ———.

I return Major Taylor's reports.

The writ for Athlone was moved for last night, and I will by

express to-morrow let you know the name of the gentleman to be returned for that borough.

You are quite right about the arrest of ———; but if Major Sirr should hear of him from any other quarter it would be desirable to arrest him, or if he should still be at Cork, and Major Sirr should hear where he has been in Dublin, it would be desirable to search that place for him, in order to frighten him out of Ireland at an early period.

We shall be in a difficulty I fear about the Insurrection Act. The old Acts expire on the 31st of July, and whether they do or not they will be repealed by the new Act, which will pass on the 30th or 31st of July.

The new Act is entirely prospective. What I fear is, that the trials which will have commenced at Sligo on the 29th July, under the old Acts, cannot be continued and brought to a conclusion by a judgment under the new Act. I have some thoughts, therefore, of altering the frame of the new Act, and to continue the old for another month, instead of repealing them. The objections to this proceeding are, that we have brought in and printed the Bill, of which we must now alter the principle, and we shall have to continue an obnoxious measure for another month. On the other hand, if we do not adopt this measure, all the prisoners to be tried at Sligo and at Castlebar, under the Insurrection Act, will avoid their punishment. I rather believe there are but few of them; and possibly it would be more convenient to allow them to escape punishment altogether, or to indict them under another Act of Parliament, or for a common law offence, or that the Attorney-General should enter a *nolo prosequi*, and that they should be kept in confinement till the next assizes, than that we should alter the whole frame of our Act of Parliament.

I will consult the Cabinet upon this subject this evening, and write to you more fully upon it to-morrow. In the mean time let me know your opinion. This is one of the many inconveniences resulting from the early assizes, which I had hoped the Chancellor would have deferred.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Harrington.

[133.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 16th July, 1807.

Mr. Trail has communicated to me the wishes of the Grand Canal Company to have the barriers removed from the bridges over their canal, and I have requested him to tell them that no answer could be given till you would arrive in Ireland. - These barriers are not a very efficient defence to the city; but in times of insurrection and against a mob they are better than nothing; and I acknowledge that in the present state of public affairs I should wish to keep them. However, upon this point you must be the best judge.

You will have heard of the intention to augment the army. The exact measure to be adopted is to add 36,000 men by ballot to the militia of Great Britain, and 8000 to the militia of Ireland, and to draft from the former into the line two-fifths of their present establishment, or about 21,000 men, and two-fifths of the establishment of the latter, or about 8000 men, making altogether an increase to the regular army of about 30,000, and to the militia of Great Britain of about 10,000 men, after providing for the loss to be sustained by the discharge of 5000 men balloted into the militia at the commencement of the war.

I shall revive the Act of Parliament which enables the King to employ the services of the Irish militia in Great Britain, and I hope to be able to have an interchange of militia forces between the two countries. This is the time to carry a measure of this description, or indeed any measure for the defence and strength of the country.

I am sorry to tell you that government are going to draw from Ireland 3000 additional infantry, and, as I suspect, the only efficient battalions of the line you have. But they promise to fill up all your deficiencies by sending to Ireland the 2nd battalions as soon as they will have received their men from the militia. This will be in six weeks, at the earliest period. I have represented your wishes and those of the Duke to have your army reinforced rather than weakened, but I fear without effect; and I acknowledge that I don't think there is reason to apprehend any serious danger from leaving you in a state of

greater weakness than you now are for about six weeks or two months.

Lady Harrington and all your family are quite well.

Believe me, my dear Lord,

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Since writing the above I find that only 1500, instead of 3000, are to be taken from you.

[134.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 16th July, 1807.

Many thanks for your letters of the 11th, 12th, and 13th. I have communicated to the Duke of York the abstracts of the answers from the Colonels of militia, and the copy of that from Lord Dufferin, and I will write to you again when I shall have been made acquainted with his sentiments.

It is impossible for me to give detailed directions in the case of the bugleman of the Cahir infantry, as I have not before me the papers or the Acts of Parliament. I think that he ought to be brought to a general court martial, and that the general court martial ought to be composed of officers of yeomanry, to be put on permanent duty for that special purpose, to consist of the usual number, and the senior officer to be President.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[135.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 17th July, 1807.

Since I wrote to you yesterday I have had some conversation with the Attorney-General and Mr. Perceval respecting our Insurrection Bill. The former is decidedly of opinion that the proceedings commenced under the existing law can be carried on, notwithstanding that it may expire, and so is the latter; but both recommend an alteration in the first clause in the Bill, a copy of which I enclose, altered as I propose it should be.

If Sir Vicary Gibbs be right, and I conclude he is, the prosecutions for offences against the Insurrection Act would go on, even if the Act were to expire; but as the new law will have passed before the 31st of July, and will contain a provision for the continuation of prosecutions, there can be no doubt upon the subject. The only question is, in what manner we shall communicate the new law to the Judges on the Connaught Circuit, supposing them to differ in opinion from Sir Vicary Gibbs and Mr. Percival; and upon this point all that I can do is to send over a copy of the law at the very moment it will be passed, and you must send it off by express to Connaught as soon as you will receive it.

I will take care of the Navigation Board if Mr. Parnell should attack them.

I made no such promise to Mr. Sneyd as Hinde mentions.

I think the case of Mr. Coleman had better remain as it is till I shall return to Ireland, when I can look at his memorial. The suspension of the prosecution for the penalties was evidently an election job, and I suspect that the desire to levy them is to be attributed to election vindictiveness.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Sir William Elford, of Brixham, in Devonshire, is to be the member for Athlone.

I enclose a letter which Mr. Flint has given me, to which I request your attention.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon.

[136.]

MY DEAR COLONEL,

London, 18th July, 1807.

I have been strongly urged by the Duke of Richmond to request that His Royal Highness would take into his consideration the case of Captain O'Reilly, late of the 31st regiment, with a view to afford him some relief from the hardships of which he complains.

He is the son of Sir Hugh O'Reilly, a most respectable and loyal Roman Catholic gentleman of Ireland; and it would be very desirable to show favour to the son, if it could be done without violation of the rules laid down by His Royal Highness

for the maintenance of the discipline and subordination of the army.

I enclose a letter which Sir Hugh sent to me upon the subject of the dispute which was the original cause of Mr. O'Reilly's misfortune; and I shall be obliged to you if you will mention the purport of it to His Royal Highness.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[137.]

To the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 18th July, 1807.

The gentlemen of Ireland are very anxious that some measures should be adopted for the improvement and security of the harbour at Holyhead. It is now much exposed to the easterly winds, which are fair for the passage to Ireland; the packets are obliged to remain at anchor in the bay at a considerable distance from the shore, to the great inconvenience of the passengers, or, if they should remain within what is called the harbour, they would be afloat, and could sail, only at certain times of the tide, to the great delay of the communication with Ireland. All these evils would be remedied by the construction of a pier under which the packets, and indeed other vessels, might lie in security afloat at all times, and from which persons and goods might be embarked. There can be no doubt that it is desirable to render the communication between this country and Ireland as safe, as expeditious, and as convenient as possible; and it is equally certain that Holyhead must be the point of communication between the two countries. Our views should therefore be directed to the improvement of that harbour.

I enclose you a paper which I received upon that subject from a very ingenious gentleman who spent some time at Holyhead during the first rebellion in Ireland, with an estimate of the expense of making the improvements which he suggests. If you should approve of his ideas and plans, I should be desirous of laying his plan and estimate before the House of Commons in this session of Parliament, and that a grant should be made of 10,000*l.* in order to commence carrying them into

execution. I will call upon you either to-morrow or Monday, when you will have had time to consider this subject.

Ever, my dear Sir, your most faithful servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[138.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 19th July, 1807.

I enclose a letter and some papers which I received last night from Mr. Trail, which contain a very accurate account of the state of Ireland at present, agreeing with every other account which we receive.

This appears to me to be the moment to take into consideration the plans for the security of the English government in that country, upon which I wrote to you some time ago. From what I hear, I am convinced that there would be no opposition to the execution of them; and I am sure that they would be approved by all the King's loyal subjects in Ireland, as tending to their security.

I rather believe that the papers from Mr. — in the enclosed packet contain an exaggerated if not an unfounded account of the business at Rathdowney in the Queen's County.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[ENCLOSURE.]

James Trail, Esq., to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 16th July, 1807.

I had last night a long conversation with a very shrewd man who had been engaged in the rebellion of 1798, and who still associates with the disaffected in Dublin, and who, although he declares he will never engage again in any treasonable conspiracy, could not conceal a deep-rooted antipathy to Great Britain and to the English government in Ireland.

He says the whole population of Ireland is decidedly hostile to the government and to the English connection; that the people, even the labouring poor, talk and think of nothing but Bonaparte's successes on the Continent, and rely with certainty on his invading this country and separating it from England. The poor say they cannot lose, and they believe they will gain by the change.

This antipathy to England pervades even the middling classes of shopkeepers and tradesmen: among them there are many intelligent people

who speculate on the ruin of England without a conquest, by means of the loss of its trade and the increase of taxes; that the British trade must be excluded from the Continent, and the ruin of its finances, wealth, and power must soon be the inevitable consequence. Bonaparte will then be able to force England to acknowledge the independence of Ireland, as it has been obliged to do that of America.

The common people do not reason in that way, but they have implicit confidence in the power of Bonaparte. At the same time he declares there is no association or conspiracy now going on; nor will any measures be taken for assisting or joining a French army till it lands. The people are terrified from such attempts by what they suffered in 1798. They have no arms, and are not endeavouring to procure any. They cannot get firearms, and if they had them they could not preserve them from perishing by damp. They are not getting pikes. They could soon furnish themselves with pike-heads; one can be made in twenty minutes; but they would find it very difficult to get handles. They will wait patiently for the French, who will bring firearms; and when the British army is assembled to meet the French, they will in a very short time provide themselves with pikes.

They have no leaders. Nobody here is looked up to more than another. They will at the moment put themselves under the direction of whoever is most active and forward in assuming it.

He does not believe there is any intercourse with France, nor that any Irishmen from France are here, or have been here since 1803. O'Connor is looked to as a leader, and many expect that Bonaparte will make him king of Ireland.

He admits that it is extraordinary, the people so hostile to England, so enterprising and rash and impatient in their disposition, should remain passive till the French arrive; but he *knows* this representation is true. The antipathy to England among the people is ancient, and has never varied. They consider themselves as oppressed. They are not protected or encouraged by their landlords, who are absent. It is the English tyranny that has prevented this country from prospering like England, and keeps the people in miserable houses and in rags, and ill-fed. Some of the more intelligent are not sanguine in expecting much improvement from Bonaparte's government, but they hope this country may be made independent both of England and France. In speaking of the population I understood him to mean the Catholics.

This man was a gunsmith. His account of the general disposition of the different classes of the people and of their present inactivity is confirmed by all the intelligence we receive. But I distrust his sincerity when he asserts there is no intercourse with France, and that no Irishmen from thence have lately been or are now in this country. He promises, however, to give information of any confederacy, or of any emissary arriving from France, and says he must know all that passes among the disaffected in Dublin.

I have this moment learned that *Hugh O'Hanlon*, who applied to you, was the person who was twice arrested in 1798 by Mr. Hume, of the county of Wicklow, and twice made his escape. I had my information from the person who was walking with him at the time of his second arrest, and who was deeply engaged with him in the conspiracy and

rebellion, and who now gives, as he did then, useful information to government. This information respecting Hugh O'Hanlon being so different from what I had obtained before, and at the same time perfectly authentic, I shall send it by express.

Sir Edward Littlehales received an account yesterday of a desperate affray at Rathdowney, in the Queen's County. I enclose Mr. ——'s letter on the subject, and also copies of the informations taken before him against some of the ringleaders. By the Lord-Lieutenant's desire I wrote to the Commander of the Forces to request that a company of infantry might be immediately sent to Rathdowney agreeably to Mr. ——'s suggestion, which was accordingly ordered by last night's post from Birr.

I heard yesterday from Mr. Cooke, a magistrate near the town of Tipperary, that one of the maypoles had been taken down on the 13th inst.; and by another letter I received to-day he informs me that the other was taken down by those who had erected it. But I received at the same time by this day's post a representation signed by a number of magistrates concerning the state of that town and its neighbourhood. It bears date the 1st inst., but it is stated that it was kept back on a promise that by the 13th the two maypoles or trees of liberty should both be taken down. The promise not being then fully performed, the representation was forwarded.

It seems difficult to decide what notice should, under such circumstances, and considering the contents of the paper, be taken of it. •It will at all events be very safe to recommend activity and exertion in the discovery and prosecution of the ringleaders in the riots at fairs, especially where lives have been lost, as at Gouliden; of the person who assaulted Mr. Massey, and of those who are administering seditious and illegal oaths.

I enclose copies of Mr. Cooke's letters, and of the representation of the other magistrates.

I have the honour to be, my dear Sir,

Yours most faithfully,

JAMES TRAIL.

To James Trail, Esq.

[139.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 21st July, 1807.

I have received your letter of the 15th, and that by express of the 16th, for which I am much obliged to you. Mr. Pole, to whom I communicated Mr. ——'s account of the riot at Rathdowney, says that Mr. —— is a man of very bad character, and that he is convinced the account is greatly exaggerated, if not entirely unfounded. However, it is well to inquire into it and to be on our guard.

I enclose a letter of recommendation from Lord Boringdon of Mr. Atwell. I shall be obliged to you if you will lay these papers before the Duke of Richmond, and ask him to appoint

Mr. Atwell to one of the vacant clerks' offices in the Account Office,

Ever, my dear Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[140.]

To the Countess of Clare.

No. 11, Harley Street, London,
21st July, 1807.

MY DEAR LADY CLARE,

I should have great pleasure in forwarding any wish of yours, particularly one in favour of my old friend Preston, but I know that the Duke of Richmond will refuse his consent to any arrangement for vacating the deanery of Limerick, founded upon a supposed exchange of livings, though, in fact, a cession of a living in favour of Mr. Crosbie. Not less than four different applications have been made to me upon this same subject by persons whom I should be desirous to oblige, but I have been under the necessity of giving the same answer to them all; and I hope that you will not consider my declining to recommend this arrangement to the Duke as inconsistent with the sincere desire which I have to do whatever will be agreeable to you.

Believe me ever yours most faithfully and sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[141.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 21st July, 1807.

I received last night your letter of the 18th, and had a short conversation with Lord Hawkesbury afterwards. He objected originally to Mr. Hook, and he still entertains his former objections to giving Busby two dignities. The result of our conversation was a wish that Busby would take the bishopric, or that, if he would not, it should be given to the most deserving Irishman that could be found. The fact is that the arrangement which you proposed has in some manner got wind, although it is very extraordinary that Westmoreland is not yet acquainted with it, and it has offended some of our Irishmen, and even the friends of the Church. The former do not approve of the promotion of an Englishman, by which they

will get nothing; and the latter don't like that a bishopric should be given away, although to a deserving character, with a view to obtain a provision for another person. I rather think that Newport alluded to this arrangement in a debate the other night, in which he mentioned the care of government to provide Englishmen for the bench in Ireland.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[142.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 22nd July, 1807.

I saw Lord Hawkesbury again yesterday, and he still appeared to think that the best arrangement would be to appoint the most deserving Irishman the Bishop, if Busby would not accept; but I have sent him your letter of Sunday this morning, and it is possible that may make some alteration in his sentiments, of which I will apprise you either this day or to-morrow. I have also to mention to you a circumstance which I heard yesterday from Long, which may lessen Busby's repugnance to become an Irish Bishop: it is, that the King has expressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury a desire to remove the Irish Bishops occasionally to England and the English to Ireland, to which proposition the Archbishop stated no objection. There is certainly none at present on legal grounds since the Union, for the Churches are *one and indivisible*, and it is equally certain that such an arrangement would strengthen the Protestant interests and establishments in Ireland more than any measure that could be devised.

I will send the Duchess's jewels by Dawes, the messenger, if the box should be ready to-morrow.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl Camden.

[143.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 22nd July, 1807.

I enclose a letter which I have received from Mr. ———, who was employed under your government to keep the peace

in the county of Meath. He now claims payment of expenses incurred for information and other secret services, and for the maintenance of a party of the police in his house for nearly three years. In the enclosed letter he has given up his claim to the former, but presses that for the latter, and I am apprehensive that this claim is not so well founded as that which he has given up. At all events, I believe that it ought to have been brought forward long ago.

Will you be so kind as to let me know whether Mr. ——— had any particular order from you to maintain the police in his house, or whether any necessity existed for maintaining them there excepting for the protection of himself and his property?

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[144.]

To the Hon. F. N. Burton.

MY DEAR BURTON,

London, 22nd July, 1807.

You are authorised to tell Sir Robert Mills that you are to be appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Lower Canada in spring, but Lord Castlereagh thinks that the communication ought to be confidential, and that the arrangement ought to be kept secret, as otherwise your successor in the county of Clare would meet with great difficulties.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[145.]

To Lord Mulgrave.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 23rd July, 1807.

I enclose two letters which I have received from Mr. Everard, relative to his son Lieutenant Thomas Everard of the *Flora*, who appears to have some claims upon you, founded upon his being the favourite son of his mother, who was a favourite of yours about thirty years ago. His claims upon me are, that the father is a respectable Roman Catholic gentleman who has four or five sons in the King's service, all of whom have behaved

well, and one led the storming party at Monte Video the other day. Besides this, Mr. Everard calls himself my kinsman. But the Lieutenant's own claims are his best recommendation; and from one of these letters you will observe that he has served long and well. I shall, therefore, be obliged to you if you will recommend him to his admiral.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[146.]

MY DÉAR DUKE,

London, 24th July, 1807.

You will have heard of the intended expedition from this country, the object of which is to attack the Danish island of Zealand and to endeavour to obtain possession of the Danish fleet. The success depends in my opinion in a grèat measure upon the possibility of bringing the Danish army over from Holstein. If that should be possible, I think the success very problematical, as it may be depended upon that the Danes will be joined and assisted by the French; and if the first can pass unmolested by our ships, the last will find no difficulty in passing.

However, whatever may be the chance of success of the expedition, it would not answer for me to allow it to go on without expressing a desire to be employed upon it. I accepted my office in Ireland solely on the condition that it should not preclude me from such service when an opportunity should offer; and I am convinced that, although you may feel some inconvenience from my temporary absence, supposing that it is intended that I should return to you, or from the loss of the assistance of an old friend, supposing that it is not, you would be the last man to desire or to wish that I should do anything with which I should not be satisfied myself. And I acknowledge that I should not be satisfied if I allowed any opportunity of service to pass by without offering myself. Under these circumstances, I have desired to be employed; and I understand that if the expedition should go on, I am to go with it. I don't know, and I have not asked, whether I am to return to my office when this coup-de-main will have been struck or will have failed. All

that I can tell you is, that nothing will give me greater satisfaction than to assist you as long as I can be useful to you, and that I have been desired by Lord Hawkesbury and Lord Castlereagh to settle with Long to take charge of my business in parliament while I shall be absent.

I will write you the particulars of everything I shall hear or learn upon this subject. In the mean time I tell you that I heard a piece of news this morning which looks very like a stop to the expedition, viz., that the Danes had already begun to move their troops out of Holstein. If that be the case, probably we shall not go.

In this state of uncertainty I have not written to Lady Wellesley upon this subject; and it is as well not to say anything to her about it till it will be positively settled that we are to go.

Ever, my dear Duke, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Duke of Richmond to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR ARTHUR,

Phoenix Park, 27th July, 1807.

I must own you are quite right to offer your services for the expedition. At the same time I cannot but lament your absence. I trust it will not be for any length of time, and that as soon as the expedition is over, either favourably or otherwise, you will return here. Your absence even in England is certainly inconvenient, but I had rather suffer the inconvenience a considerable time than have you changed. It however makes it the more necessary for you to talk over with C. Long the propriety of calling in the assistance of Marsden. If you go, I wish you would take — as your aide-de-camp, for I am sure he will plague me heartily. I find he has got Mr. Croker's resignation, and of course will want to name a successor, probably some one unfit for it. I wrote to you before on that subject, and wish to hear your opinion.

Lord Tyrawley supposes another regiment of militia is to be raised in Mayo, and offers his services. I presume no other regiment will be raised of that sort; but supposing Colonel Jackson to die, I think we agreed he ought to have the regiment. Lord Clarina offers to "raise a regiment on the terms government have hitherto granted; provided he gets the appointment of Brigadier." Denis Browne also hopes to be allowed to raise a regiment on the terms others do.

H. Clements wishes to be a governor of Leitrim. This his getting the regiment will give him; but he wishes it separate, in case he should hereafter give up the militia: I see no objection.

All is quiet again. Whether anything was intended, I know not; but if it was, our being on the alert will have had a good effect. I have a letter from Roden to explain that he is under a promise to bring in a friend of

Lord Stair's for Dundalk ; the promise was given five years ago, and to last six years. He has tried to be off, but Lord Stair would not agree. After the next session he is liberated.

Yours very sincerely,

RICHMOND.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[147.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 24th July, 1807.

I had a conversation yesterday with Lord Hawkesbury regarding the bishopric. He says that he knows of no instance in which two dignities such as stalls have been held by the same person ; that he fears it would be a difficult matter to arrange for Busby as you wish, and that it would create great disgust for an object comparatively of trifling importance. He therefore wishes you to recommend the Irish clergyman whom you will think the most deserving of promotion. You know my sentiments upon this subject and the Duke of Portland's wishes ; and Bathurst will write to you to tell you what he thinks, and what he proposes that he and I should do to obtain a promise of preferment here for Busby. In conversation yesterday, Lord Hawkesbury said that he thought it might be possible to get a deanery for him.

I enclose you a note from Gordon about ———. I am afraid that the story is much worse than the father has ever stated it to us, or than he knows it to be.

I likewise enclose a note from the Duke of York, relative to a Mr. O'Meara. The Duke told me that he had no particular anxiety about this gentleman, and that he recommended him only because he might be useful to government. A deanery for him is out of the question.

I spoke to Lord Hawkesbury yesterday regarding our pensions. He wishes you to recommend that Mr. ——— may have 400*l.* per annum for his life ; Mrs. ——— 400*l.* per annum for her life ; and Mrs. ——— 400*l.* per annum for her life. This makes up our full sum for this year. All the pensions may take place from the 24th of June. We have charges upon our next year of 400*l.* for ———, and 500*l.* for ———, unless I should be able to prevail upon the gentlemen here to take the whole of the latter upon themselves.

Will you let —— and —— know of the favour which you will confer on them, and also ——? —— is in London, but I shall say nothing to him upon the subject.

I enclose you a letter from Lord Camden on Mr. ——'s claims. Foster, who knows him well, and lives in his neighbourhood, and indeed has certified his good conduct during the Rebellion, protests against giving him anything by way of compensation for the expense of supporting policemen. He says that in point of fact he supported none, excepting to take care of his own house and property, and that to give him compensation would open the door to demands upon a more just foundation, which would cost immense sums, for which there is no provision. He says besides, that after the Rebellion a board of compensation sat, which took into consideration all these claims; and that he recollects perfectly to have remonstrated, and to have set his face against Mr. ——'s making any claim on the ground stated by him in his letter to me. I think the best thing to do would be to delay to give him any answer till I shall arrive in Ireland.

You will have seen the letter of the Bishop of Quimper in the *Times* !!!

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Since writing the above, I have seen the Duke of Portland, and he has desired me to tell you that, although he wishes that Jocelyn may at some time or other be made a bishop, he wishes that he should not be made upon the present vacancy; that Jocelyn does not expect it himself; and that he thinks the appointment of St. Lawrence would be very creditable to the government.

[148.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 25th July, 1807.

I consider the circumstance mentioned in your letter of the 20th to be a matter of great regret, and I am convinced that you will spare no pains to discover the person who has carried away your papers. I think that you ought to take some steps

against the office-keeper, as well as against Mr. Kirby the clerk. You ought to get a search-warrant and have his lodgings searched.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[149.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 27th July, 1807.

I am much afraid that Mr. Sankey will be disappointed in the amount of his compensation; but I cannot help that. I should lose the bill if I were to attempt to push the compensation to the old Commissioners beyond the amount of two-thirds of their old profits.

I doubt very much whether we shall get the two years' surplus of the Civil List. I believe it would be best not to interfere with Mr. Foster respecting the appointment of a Secretary to the Commissioners for the Howth harbour. I will recommend to him to appoint a gentleman whom he has recommended to me for an office.

The murderers at Ballincote must be tried by the civil court. I only hope that care will be taken to have a good jury, and a strong force in the town if they should be convicted and sentenced to suffer death.

I hope that Mr. Cooke's account of Tipperary is premature. However, we must look narrowly into everything which concerns that county, as I consider it, in every respect, to be the worst disposed part of Ireland.

I am going abroad with the expedition, and I don't know whether or not I am to retain my office in Ireland, although from what has passed on the subject I believe that I am. It is useless to enter into the reasons which have induced me to be desirous to be employed in my profession; but when I accepted my office I did it on the condition only that in case occasion for such employment should offer I should not be forgotten, and I have not thought it proper to pass by this opportunity. In fact, no political office could compensate to me the loss of the situation which I held in the army, and nothing shall induce me to give it up. Whether I am to return to my office or not, I shall never cease to reflect with gratitude upon the cordial assistance which

I have received from you, for which I beg you to accept my most sincere thanks. I have been desired to fix upon somebody to carry on my business in Parliament during my absence, and I have settled with Long that he shall do it. In case you should have occasion to write here upon any subject, direct to Mr. Wyatt, or Mr. Long, or Mr. Beckett, and you will have Lord Hawkesbury's sentiments. But I do not yet know how soon I shall leave town, and you may as well continue to write to me till you will hear that I am gone.

If you should have got all that you think you can get out of Rose, it would be as well to release him, taking care that when he goes away he is still to be considered as liable to the penalties of the Banishment Act. You will write to the Under-Secretary of State an account of his arrest and examination in continuation of my letter to him upon this same subject. I think you had better keep Devine some time longer.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I request that you will take care that the office held by the late Mr. Downing shall not be given to any other person than such as may be recommended by Lord George Beresford and General Stewart, unless it be given to the late Mr. Downing's son, according to my former letter upon this subject.

A. W.

[150.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 27th July, 1807.

The private intelligence which I received was generally through Trail, and, at all events, he knew everything that I knew. I doubt much whether you would derive much benefit from the appointment of Marsden.

Without inquiring into the nature of Mr. Croker's office, I don't know whether the engagement to Lord Sligo would apply to it. I rather think that he applied for one of the County Surveyor-General's offices, and I don't know whether Croker's office is of the same description. Croker's is a very important office, and from some conversation which I have had with Lord Camden respecting a promise which he made to Mr. Hardman,

by Mr. Pitt's desire, I am afraid that you will be obliged to give it to him, or to turn out another Commissioner of the Revenue to make a vacancy for him. I don't know that Croker means to resign. Have you heard anything about it?

Lord Castlereagh has mentioned to me the wish of Canning and himself that Mr. George Canning, the member for Sligo, should have an office which he could hold consistently with a seat in Parliament: he is related to both of them. I told him that I would mention the subject to you. But there is no vacancy, or probability of one.

I enclose a letter which I have received from Calvert, which will show you what command I am to have upon the expedition. I don't know when I go.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Nothing can be stronger than the Judge-Advocate's opinion against Mr. O'Reilly, and the Duke of York cannot restore him to his rank; but he allows me to recommend him for an Ensigncy, which I have done.

To Lord Mulgrave.

[151.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 27th July, 1807.

Mr. Grattan desired me to mention to you two days ago that a man, by name Michael Usher, who was the apprentice of Timothy Byrne, of Thomas-street, Dublin, had been pressed in Dublin, and is now serving on board the *Royal Sovereign*, and he is very anxious that his discharge should be sent to the ship. All the papers on this subject are in the Admiralty office, and I shall be very much obliged to you if you will enable me to tell Mr. Grattan that Michael Usher shall receive his discharge.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[152.]

To Brigade-Major Campbell.

MY DEAR CAMPBELL,

London, 27th July, 1807.

As far as I know now, I shall not leave town till Wednesday, so that you had better continue on your road to London. If I should set out to-morrow, I will keep a good watch for you on the road, so as to stop you. The ship in which I shall embark is the *Prometheus* fire-ship, at Sheerness.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[153.]

To Lieut.-Colonel Gordon.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

London, 27th July, 1807.

The Duke of Richmond has desired me to request that His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief will give an Ensigncy to Mr. O'Reilly, the son of Sir Hugh O'Reilly, a very respectable Roman Catholic gentleman of Ireland. This young gentleman has been unfortunate; but I have reason to believe that he has done nothing undeserving the character of a gentleman, and that his misfortunes will operate as a warning to him hereafter.

Ever, my dear Colonel, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[154.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 28th July, 1807.

I received your letter of the 26th this morning, and I sent it off immediately to Lord Hawkesbury, whom I have not seen since. I always think precaution the best plan, particularly in Ireland, where, with the best intelligence, we are liable to surprise; and I am of opinion that those you directed on Saturday, even with a view to the Donnybrook fair, supposing that you had had no ground whatever for a belief that there would be a riot, were most wise and prudent.

I wrote to Lord Hawkesbury to request that the embarkation of the three southern regiments, which I know are not to be drawn away, might be countermanded, and that the two regi-

ments destined for Ireland from Guernsey might be ordered there forthwith.

I had a conversation with Lord Hawkesbury yesterday about Mrs. Leeson's memorial. He says that there are but four instances during the King's reign of the conferring of rank by courtesy on persons claiming it as descended from those who had it by courtesy, and not one of a rank conferred on a person in Mrs. Leeson's situation.

The first was a Lady ———, for reasons into which it is not necessary to enter; the second on the Misses Murray, who lived with (the Chief Justice) Lord Mansfield; the third on Miss Erskine, the Chancellor Lord Rosslyn's niece, and sister to the present Lord; and the fourth your own sisters. Mrs. Leeson's claim cannot be compared to any of the three last, and, in fact, they were all spontaneous offers from the King himself to the families of old servants with whom he was personally acquainted; and Lord Hawkesbury says that the King would be most unwilling to extend honours of this description, and that if he could prevail upon him to extend them, he would have numberless claimants for them in both countries. Under these circumstances, he wishes you to get rid of this claim.

There is nothing new.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I mean to send you a sword to Ireland by the first messenger who will go over, which I beg you to accept. It is an excellent blade and a most curious and beautiful scabbard, which was sent to me by a Persian who served under my command in India,

I enclose letters from two persons who want promotion upon the Bishop's vacancy. It may suit your arrangements to include them; but I have nothing to say for them.

The Duke of Richmond to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR ARTHUR,

Phoenix Park, 10th Aug., 1807.

I am sorry you did not get my letters before you sailed. They were to beg you would not give up the appointment, but come back as soon as the expedition is over. The Longford militia and the Dragoons turn out clearly not to be religious; they have been convicted of manslaughter only. Twenty young lads of Sligo and Mayo have enlisted for general service, on not being brought to trial as Threshers. They curse the "Threshers," heartily acknowledge the justice of the sentences passed, and

the mildness of government. Only one was tried in that country, and from conviction that that system is over, I was easily led by the advice of Serjeant Moore to respite him.

There is no doubt the same feelings that showed themselves in Tipperary are pretty general. The Bishop of Limerick has been wounded, but not badly, in his carriage, near that town. He and two gentlemen who followed him in a chaise were dragged out and much beat and robbed. It is clearly not political, but the fellows were well armed.

I hope to be able to do a good deal for French, Leslie, and Daly. The former prefers a sinecure prebend to the exchange to Cork. The second goes to Cork with a living, giving up his former preferment, 1400*l*. This enables me to do something for Carleton, by which I get Killaloe for Daly. I am not without hopes of getting something for Hyde, Lord Shannon's friend. Shannon was reasonable when he asked for one of St. Lawrence's livings for him, and did not at all press it.

Things go on much as they did: I will not therefore take up your time. Pray don't stay after the expedition is over. Wishing you all success,

I am, dear Arthur, yours very faithfully,

RICHMOND.

[155.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 29th July, 1807.

I have received your letter of the 25th. Notwithstanding Mr. Caulfield's account, you must not prohibit the ceremonies on the 3rd of August in the neighbourhood of King's Court; but I conclude, that it is unnecessary for me to suggest to you the expediency of stationing troops in that quarter, so as to preclude any mischief which might otherwise be likely to result from those ceremonies.

Ever, my dear Sir Edward, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[156.]

*To Messrs. Allen and Green.**

GENTLEMEN,

London, 29th July, 1807.

I have received your letter of the 20th instant, and I have to inform you that it is my intention to insert a clause in the Bill relative to the Registry of Arms in Ireland, for the purpose of giving to you an adequate remuneration for any expense or

* Clerks of the Peace of the City of Dublin.

trouble to which you will be liable under the provisions of that Bill.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[157.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Shoerness, 31st July, 1807.

I am just going on board.

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will urge Lord Mulgrave to make room for Lord Lecale in Ireland, by the removal of Admiral Bowen from the command of the Sea Fencibles.

The Guards sailed last night.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[158.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

No. 11, Harley Street, 1st Oct., 1807.*

I arrived in town last night, and Lord Hawkesbury has this day shown me your last despatch on the subject of the disturbances in Limerick. He will send you an authority from the Cabinet to proclaim that district, but the impression upon my mind, from a perusal of the papers enclosed in your despatch, particularly the letter from the Mayor of Limerick, is that although the state of the country is such as to require the most vigorous measures to restore tranquillity and to preserve the peace, the papers are not sufficient to warrant the proclamation of the district under the Insurrection Act. I feel this more strongly from a recollection of the case made out for the Duke of Bedford when Connaught was disturbed last year, and from the universal approbation which has been given by all (without exception) to his forbearance upon that occasion. I acknowledge that I doubt whether he was right, but what has passed

* Sir A. Wellesley left England for the expedition against Copenhagen on 31st July, and returned from Denmark on 30th September. The Copenhagen Correspondence will be given in another volume.

respecting his conduct should induce us to pause before we put the Insurrection Act in force.

I have no doubt but that the Whiteboy and other Riot Acts apply to the state of affairs at Limerick, but the lawyers in Ireland must be the best judges on this subject. If I should be right, I think we may yet arrange a plan which shall restore tranquillity without having recourse to the proclamation.

I expect to have done all that I have to do here in a day or two, and I shall not delay one moment after the Ministers will allow me to go.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[159.]

To the Right Hon. T. Jones.

MY DEAR SIR,

No. 11, Harley Street, 6th Oct., 1807.

I beg that you will do me the favour to assure Lady Clermont that I will assist her nephew Major Henry Westenra as far as may be in my power, in his views upon the county of Monaghan. I find that the Duke of Richmond has already exerted himself, and I will do all that I can for him.

Ever yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[160.]

To the Earl of Harrington.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 14th Oct., 1807.

I arrived here on Monday, and Lady Harrington will have informed you of the reasons why I did not bring FitzRoy with me.

Since my arrival here, and indeed when I was in London, I turned over in my mind the means to be adopted to put a stop to the disturbances prevailing in some of the southern counties, and the result is a conviction that in whatever manner we may ultimately proceed, it is necessary to begin with reinforcing those counties with troops, and to endeavour to form a chain which shall extend and connect from Waterford and Dungarvan to Limerick. On this ground I have had two or three conferences with Anstruther, and we agreed yesterday to propose

to you a plan and disposition for that purpose which is connected with instructions which I have drawn for the magistrates, and which will be sent as soon as we shall learn from you that the plan proposed for your consideration will be adopted. I hope that we shall hear from you on Friday, and that we shall see you soon afterwards.

Believe me, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[161.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 14th Oct., 1807.

We have arranged a plan for extending our troops and their patrols from Waterford and Dungarvan to Limerick, which I hope that we shall be able to carry into execution in a few days. This is a necessary preparatory measure to any plan that may be adopted for quieting those counties. I strongly recommend that you should send us our troops as soon as possible, and that you should take away from us some of our militia. These measures will be particularly necessary if there should be any foundation for the reports contained in Mr. Burke's letter.

I have not got the papers on the fortifications from the Ordnance, nor the draft of Lord Redesdale's Bill for the reform of the Tithe System of Ireland, which Mr. Perceval said he would let me have ; nor the plan on which the Westminster police is conducted, which you said should be sent to me.

Pray send me these papers as soon as you can.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon.

[162.]

MY DEAR COLONEL,

Dublin Castle, 16th Oct., 1807.

If I had had an opportunity of seeing His Royal Highness again previous to my departure from London, I intended to have taken the liberty of recommending to his favour and protection Captain Campbell of the 75th, who has been for some years the Brigade-Major attached to me. I originally recommended that he

might be appointed to that situation from having witnessed his conduct on a trying occasion ; and I have always had reason to be satisfied with him, and to applaud him. He belongs to a family distinguished for their gallant conduct : his brother is the Captain of the navy who, with a sloop of war, cut a frigate out of Dunkirk in the last war ; and he lost three brothers in action in India, all belonging to the 74th regiment ; and for intelligence, gallantry, and activity, he is equal to any officer of his rank in the army. Under these circumstances I venture to recommend him to His Royal Highness for promotion, if an opportunity should occur ; and I shall really consider his attention to this recommendation as a mark of favour and kindness to myself, in addition to the many which I have received from him.

Ever, my dear Colonel, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

163.]

To Stephen Dickson, Esq., High Sheriff of Limerick.

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 17th Oct., 1807.

The Lord Lieutenant is much concerned that the yeomanry of the county of Limerick should have been hurt by the assertions and reflections contained in a paragraph in the *Globe* newspaper of the 5th instant. Be assured that no credit is given to assertions of this description. His Grace has at the same time desired me to tell you that he is convinced that the yeomanry of the county of Limerick had no feeling respecting the disturbances which have lately prevailed there, excepting of regret and concern for the deluded people who have been led to commit the outrages alluded to, and of anxiety to lend their aid to the civic magistrates to uphold the authority of the laws and to restore the peace of the county.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. George Canning.

[164.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 17th Oct., 1807.

I think that we shall be able to get the better of the disturbances in the southern counties without putting the Insurrection Act in execution as soon as the troops will have taken up their positions according to a plan which we have arranged since my arrival in Dublin. I shall be happy to aid the government in any manner they please, and am ready to set out for any part of the world at a moment's notice.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Westmoreland.

[165.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 17th Oct., 1807.

I have received your letter about Mr. Cooke, who I know to be an active and intelligent magistrate of the county of Tipperary, and one whom I should be anxious to employ if an opportunity should offer. I rather believe that Mr. Cooke does not now practise at the bar, which would prevent his appointment to the situation for which he wishes, even if it were vacant, and the Lord-Lieutenant should have it in his power to appoint him to it. But, besides this objection, the fact is, that the Lord-Lieutenant is under an engagement for more than one office of this description when it shall become vacant. Your friend Lord Longueville, among others, has applied for one.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

John Cooke, Esq., to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

SIR,

Cordangan, near Tipperary, 1st Aug., 1807.

Understanding that several measures respecting Ireland are now under consideration, permit me to suggest the necessity which there appears to be for inquiring into the state of the magistracy of this country. The vigilance of the government, the aptitude of the laws, and the alertness of the military will be of little avail unless drawn forth and pointed to the proper objects; and a nearer view of the condition of this country will show that this necessary duty is not duly performed by our present justices of the peace. Let it be recollected that few inheritors of the soil reside, and

that the magistracy are of course selected from a secondary class of people living by their industry upon derivative-interests, from whom little legal knowledge or little leisure can be expected: again, the ordinary duty of the office here and in England is very different; there it is little more than to announce the laws by peace officers to a quiet and compliant people, here it is partly a military office; the offender must be conquered to be taken; and the utmost address and considerable expense are required to discover, to bring forward, and to protect witnesses for his conviction: it is also to contend with obstinate prejudices and religious factions, to incur private lasting animosity, and to be perpetually exposed to personal danger. This representation applies to what is called a state of tranquillity; but when invasion impends or rebellion is threatened, the solitary country justice finds himself surrounded by thousands confederating by oaths, and preparing weapons for insurrection, without a friend perhaps on whom he can rely nearer than some distant garrison, whilst his family and property remain at the mercy of the populace: in this situation he is often obliged to compromise his duty for his safety, and at length to fly to the towns where the army are quartered. These towns are too thinly scattered through this populous country for the magistrates to act from them as centres, and by these means the remote places become entirely abandoned to the disaffected: it is within the recollection of all who witnessed the last rebellion that this was then the case, and the same consequences may be expected again in the same events, which shows how impolitic it would be to depend on the voluntary, accidental exertions of ill-informed, unprotected men for services of vital importance to the state in present circumstances. The office of justice of the peace may be considered that link which connects the theory with the execution of the law; and while it remains defective, the magistrates will not complain of their own inactivity, the military will not complain of the ease and repose which they enjoy, but the government will find that their power cannot reach the sources of that internal danger which threatens us.

I have seen one rebellion, and I have observed preparations for another; and the result of my own observations and of the experience of others is, that if the places of intoxication were shut up, and if a few leaders of sedition in every parish were removed from this country, the existing confederacies would be broken down and decay away; but this can be effected only by a magistracy possessing a knowledge of local circumstances and of private character, who may be sincerely attached to British connexion. Each should be resident in a certain district assigned to his care, and be assisted by a small guard at his place of abode to execute his orders and to afford him protection; he should be compensated for his time and trouble (at least while on active service), and have power to purchase useful information, with a prospect of indemnification for involuntary errors, and of obtaining pardon and rewards for approvers. His guard may consist of a few members of a yeomanry corps formed for the purpose, according to the existing laws, which may act together as a body when requisite. A system of such magistrates should be placed under the superintendence of some person of legal information who might visit them frequently to collect their reports, to afford them advice, and to urge them to their duty.

Such an establishment, or something similar, by bearing actively on

disaffection in several points at the same time, would intimidate and subdue it with ease, even by the operation of the ordinary laws of the country.

Permit me, Sir, to add, that I have not thus trespassed on you without a due sense of my own incapacity to advise. I have omitted no opportunity to collect the opinions of the best informed on this head, which coincide nearly with these; and I believe that the Earl of Westmoreland, to whom I have the honour of being known, would do me the favour to say that my situation in this country affords me an opportunity of acquiring some information on this subject.

I have the honour to be your most faithful and
obedient humble servant,

JOHN COOKE.

To Charles Fraser, Esq.

[166.]

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 17th Oct., 1807.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter respecting the gun invented by Mr. Roebuck. If I had been upon the spot when that letter was addressed to me, I should have been happy to have an opportunity of seeing Mr. Roebuck, with whose brother I was very well acquainted in India.

I am, dear Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To General Smith.

[167.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 17th Oct., 1807.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant. I assure you that I shall be happy to have an opportunity of marking my sense of the services of the 43rd regiment, and that I will certainly do every thing in my power to add to their strength by procuring volunteers for them from the Irish militia.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To J. Beckett, Esq.

[168.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 18th Oct., 1807.

I send you copies of the reports which we have received lately from the magistrates and officers in the counties of Tip-

perary; Limerick, and Waterford, which will show how matters stand in those counties. I hope that we shall soon have arranged the troops in such a manner as to be able to carry into execution a general plan of military operations which will get the better of these disturbances of the public peace. In respect to the proposal to search for arms, I am convinced it will have no effect, excepting a plan is well laid and organised for that purpose, and is carried into execution by the military. Even then we shall not find arms; but we shall oblige those who have them contrary to law to conceal them in places where they will become unserviceable, which will answer our purpose equally well.

Believe me ever yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[169.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 22nd Oct., 1807.

The question respecting tithes is becoming one of so much delicacy here that I wish much to have your opinion on the mode of proceeding in our inquiries respecting it. From what I have seen already, I am quite convinced that we shall not be able to do anything in it; and yet you will have seen that resolutions have been passed unanimously at meetings in some of the counties in Ireland, that "*Tithes ought to be abolished*;" other counties have given notices of meetings for the same purpose, particularly Limerick and Wexford; and I heard this day that a similar spirit was gaining ground in the north. I think it possible that I may be able to prevent the meetings of some of these counties; at all events, they shall hear something on the other side of the question, and their resolutions will not pass unanimously. But we shall be awkwardly situated in parliament if we are to meet the resolutions of all the counties for an abolition of tithes, and should have no facts to oppose to them, and no measure to propose. Yet if we could manage to bring out the facts, the case of the Church would be most triumphant.

I understand that in general throughout Ireland the clergy do not receive a thirtieth instead of a tenth; they have no tithe by law from grazing grounds; that they have none on potatoes, excepting in Munster; none on flax in many parts; and that

in general the tithe system does not extend to near so many articles in Ireland as it does in England. If we could bring these facts out in an authentic and official form, it would afford a complete answer to the resolutions of the county meetings and to the enemies of the Church.

I know no mode in which I could bring the state of tithes before parliament, excepting by calling upon the bishops to make a return of the articles on which it is the custom to take tithe in their several dioceses, of the mode generally adopted of recovering the tithes, and of the rate paid by the acre for the different articles on which tithe is taken, where a *modus* prevails either by custom or special agreement. The objection to this mode of proceeding is, that it would create an alarm in the Church, that it would raise the expectations of the enemies of the Church, and of those among the people who really think tithes a grievance; and all would be disappointed, for I am thoroughly convinced that it is impossible to do anything. I see no prospect of getting the information required from any other quarter.

I wish that you would turn this subject over in your mind, and let me know whether you are disposed to risk the consequences of requiring this information from the bishops.

The Primate is gone to England. He was in Dublin for two days, and I saw him twice. He felt the difficulty of bringing out the information which the public ought to have upon this question, but could suggest no remedy. I asked him whether he could not contrive to acquire it by a private and confidential communication through the archbishops. He answered, that I might depend upon him and the Archbishop of Cashel; but he could say nothing for the others. The Archbishop of Dublin is wild upon the subject; and I am convinced, from the conversation I have had with him, that he will act upon his own views only, and not upon those of government.

Believe me, my dear Lord,

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[170.]

To Lord Clarina.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 22nd Oct., 1807.

I have received your Lordship's letter in which you have desired to have my sentiments on the intention which has been manifested by some gentlemen in the county of Limerick to call together a meeting of the county with a view to vote certain resolutions expressive of their opinion that *tithes ought to be abolished*. I observe that some of the gentlemen in the counties bordering upon Limerick have met and expressed the same sentiments by their resolutions ; and I acknowledge that I consider these transactions to be of the utmost importance as affecting both the Church and State.

The tithes are a part of the produce of the land allotted to the maintenance of the clergy, the right to which now rests upon a title very similar to and equally sacred with that of any individual to the estate out of which those tithes are to be paid ; and the same arrangements which lead to a conclusion and resolutions that the tithes ought to be *abolished* would equally apply to a resolution that no rent ought to be paid. The difference between them would be, that the arguments when used, and the resolutions when applied to the abolition of tithes, come from those gentlemen who enjoy the rents ; but when they shall be applied to rents, they will be urged and enforced by the more numerous and powerful body, the occupiers of the soil, who pay the rents. Indeed, as I will endeavour to point out to you presently, this last body is much more interested in producing an abolition of rents than it can be in anything relating to tithes.

As far as their own personal interests are concerned, therefore, I am astonished that any set of gentlemen having landed property should ever have thought of passing resolutions the effect of which must be to shake the title to all landed property. But they are not the only body that will be affected if the object of their resolutions is to be carried into effect. The Church establishment will obviously be destroyed, and with it the Protestant religion, and along with both the State and the connection with Great Britain. The gentlemen profess indeed that their object is not to destroy the Church establishment ; but I have not heard that any one of those who have most strenuously

argued for the abolition of tithes have suggested an idea respecting the manner in which that body is hereafter to be supported ; from what fund or in what manner their support is to be drawn from the pockets of the people (for from thence it must come), in return for the money which these gentlemen would put into their own pockets (for a short time indeed, for all would soon follow) by the abolition of tithes.

There is another class whose title to tithe is precisely the same with that of the landowner to his property, and who would suffer immediately by the "*abolition of tithes*," viz., the lay impropiators, who, in Ireland, possess nearly one-third of the tithes of the kingdom. Their property in tithes has been derived either by purchase or descent, in the same manner with that of land which has been purchased, or has come by descent to any other landed gentleman, and is the subject of settlements and the provision for families who must be completely ruined if this extravagant plan of abolition should be adopted for the momentary benefit and advantage of the other class.

But the professed object of proposing these resolutions is not less fallacious than the real effect of them is dangerous: the object stated is to relieve the poor from an intolerable burthen.

The fact is that the tithes, although paid immediately by the occupier of the soil, come ultimately from the pocket of the landlord. There is one species of tithe, namely, the agistment tithe, from which all lands in Ireland are exempt; and it has been so either under a resolution of the House of Commons or by law for many years. It does not appear, however, that the tenant derives any advantage from this abolition, or that it is cheaper or more profitable for a tenant to take grazing lands which pay no tithes than corn lands of which the tithe is taken; for in point of fact what is taken from the clergyman is given to the landlord; and it is well known, as must necessarily be the case, that lands exempt from tithe both in England and Ireland let at a higher rent than those from which tithe is taken. The result, then, of this expedient professed to be for the relief of the poor, would be to put more money into the pockets of the landlords, if indeed any landlords should eventually continue to exist. The process would be that, as lands would fall out of lease, the rent would be raised in the exact proportion of the tithe before paid to the clergyman; and the

cottier in particular, the owner of potato gardens, whose interests and welfare demand so much of the public attention, would gain absolutely nothing, as, their tenures being generally at will or upon short leases, the rents of their tenements would be raised probably on the very day or the year following that on which the legislature should agree to adopt the suggestion of these gentlemen and "*abolish tithes*."

I have hitherto considered the object of these meetings to be what your Lordship says that in Limerick will be, and what the resolutions of other counties have expressed to be their object, *to abolish tithes*. There are others short of that extreme measure relating to the same subject, of which, however, I consider it to be equally desirable to avoid the discussion at a county meeting.

It is impossible that any institution such as that of tithes, in which the interests of so many individuals are concerned, should have so long existed in any country without some abuse or imperfection belonging to it; and it is possible that abuses and grievances inseparable from the collection of all property may attend the collection of tithes. The law has provided remedies for some of these abuses, and it is possible that some may exist that would require further legislative provisions. But I am convinced that a county meeting is not the place in which such grievances and their remedies ought to be canvassed, and that the discussion of them in such places will most probably lead to the discussion of the more violent measure, the total abolition of this description of property.

I am aware that many persons are of opinion that the existence of tithes is extremely injurious to agriculture; and that, without destroying that description of property altogether, it would be possible to establish a *modus* or commutation which would preserve the right of property, would afford a provision for the clergy, and would be more beneficial to the occupier of land. The ablest men in Great Britain and Ireland have, I believe, considered this subject, and I never yet heard of a practicable remedy for the inconvenience which is supposed to exist. I certainly do not expect to find it in a meeting of a county; and upon the whole, being convinced that discussions upon this subject can tend only to shake the title to all landed property, and to raise expectations which can never be realised,

I strongly recommend you to endeavour to prevail upon the gentlemen of the county of Limerick not to have the proposed meeting.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

MEMORANDUM ON OFF-RECKONINGS FOR THE LORD [171.]
LIEUTENANT'S CONSIDERATION.

24th Oct., 1807.

There are papers from General Leith, who raised the Aberdeenshire Fencibles in July, 1795, and received a warrant for twelve months' off-reckonings; and the second warrant was not received till November, 1796, thereby losing clothing for four months. When the regiment was disbanded in April, 1803, they claimed their clothing for the four months from July to November, 1796, and government ordered that the money should be advanced on the supposition that it was due, and that an inquiry should be made into the justice of the claim of the men.

The case was then referred to England, and Mr. Yorke writes in answer to this reference that there was no foundation for the claim.

In 1805 the question was again brought before Lord Hardwicke, who referred to General Floyd, the then Commander of the Forces, to ascertain the nature of the inquiry which had been entered into in 1803, when the money was paid to the men; but no trace of an inquiry could be found in the office, and General Hyde could not recommend that the money should be paid in opposition to the opinion of the Secretary at War.

It would probably have been as well if the government had before refrained from paying the money till the inquiry had been gone into, but they issued the money, and denied that an inquiry ought to be made. If an inquiry were made, and the officers concerned were satisfied, the money advanced by government ought to have been paid by General Leith, and he ought now to be relieved from the consequences of this act.

If no inquiry were made, the money ought not to have been paid according to the orders of government, and in this case General Leith ought to incur the loss occasioned by his own act.

In this opinion I have considered the decision of Mr. Yorke to be correct, viz., that a new regiment has a right to the off-reckonings of only twelve months in sixteen months. This decision, however, is disputed by General Leith.

[172.]

To — Maclintock, Esq.

MY DEAR MACLINTOCK,

Dublin Castle, 24th Oct., 1807.

I have read the papers which you left with me, and I am sorry to tell you that I don't see any ground whatever on which I could propose an alteration of the decision by the Board of Accounts. If you conceive that their decision is unjust or erroneous, you should proceed in the manner recommended by your counsel.

There is no part of the duty of my office that gives me more concern than to be obliged to decide on questions with which the interests of individuals are connected, particularly when they relate to those of a person for whom I have long had a sincere regard; but I should not act fairly by those who employ me if I did not decide those questions according to the best of my judgment, and without favour or partiality.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[173.]

To the Lord Chief Baron.

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 24th Oct., 1807.

I received a letter from Lord Clarina some days ago, in which he consulted my opinion on a plan which was in contemplation in the county of Limerick, to call a meeting of the gentlemen to consider of a resolution declaring their opinion that *tithes ought to be abolished*. As this measure appeared to me of much importance, and, as far as I had heard and observed of the sentiment on this subject in the country, the question appeared to have been but little considered, and its bearings and consequences not at all understood, I thought it expedient in this letter to Lord Clarina to place it on what I conceived its true grounds, and I have requested Mr. Trail to send you a copy of this letter.

In case it should still be in contemplation to call such a meeting, and your Lordship should agree in opinion with me upon it, I shall be obliged to you if you will use your influence to prevent it; or if the meeting should take place, that the resolutions may not be of the violent and inflammatory kind which have been voted in other counties.

I have the honour to be, my dear Lord,
Your most faithful and obedient humble servant,
ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To C. W. Ponsonby, Esq.

[174.]

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 26th Oct., 1807.

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 21st instant. The agitation of the question of tithes in the imprudent manner in which it has been conducted, may be attended by the most extensive and fatal consequences in this country. It is quite impossible for government to interfere in discussions of this description excepting in the mode of friendly advice, however important the subject itself, and the measures which are carrying on, may be considered. I have confined myself entirely to communications of this description; and I enclose you the copy of one which I made a few days ago to Lord Clarina, who asked my opinion on the discussion which was about to take place in the county of Limerick. I transmit this paper to you, as it may be of use to you in framing the protest which you say that the gentlemen of the county of Kerry are disposed to sign against the resolutions which were voted at the county meeting.

I will speak to the Commander-in-Chief respecting a reinforcement of troops for the county of Kerry.

The Governors and Deputy-Governors of the county will receive by this post an answer to their letter of the 19th instant, which I hope will be satisfactory to them. I certainly prefer the mode of raising men by enrolling volunteers, but it is necessary that the county should be put in a state to resort to the ballot, or to the alternative proposed in the 12th, 13th, and 14th sections of the Militia Act, if the mode of enrolment of volunteers should not answer.

I hope that I shall hear from you when you will have any thing to communicate which you will think it desirable that I should know,

And that you will believe me, dear Sir,

Yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[175.]

To the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 27th Oct., 1807.

You will have seen from my letter to Lord Hawkesbury the state in which our inquiry stood in relation to the question of tithes. Since I wrote to him I have heard of other counties in which meetings have been called for the purpose of petitioning Parliament to abolish tithes, and I am convinced that we shall be able to meet the apparent general sentiment in Ireland upon this subject, only by showing the real state of the question; and we can do this only by drawing our information from the most authentic sources. I have turned over in my mind a plan for the reform of our tithe system, which I shall send over, if, upon further consideration, I should have better hopes of its success than I acknowledge I have at present.

I have had two conversations with the Archbishop of Armagh respecting the state of the Church. I am positively convinced, and so is he, that we shall never have churches, glebe-houses, or the established Church in a respectable state till we shall have a law to enforce residence.* Whether Sir William Scott's law, without the exceptions, many of which are not applicable to the state of Ireland, or another still stronger will be necessary, I have not yet made up my mind. The Primate appeared to think that Sir William Scott's law, without the exceptions, would answer. I rather believe you opposed Sir William Scott's Act, but I suppose it was on account of the exceptions it contained.

The Board of Education have made two reports, of which

* The Protestant Established Church of Ireland in 1807 was divided into four archbishoprics (Armagh, Dublin, Cashel, and Tuam), and twenty dioceses. There were 2436 parishes, 1120 benefices, and 1000 churches. The number of glebe-houses was 363; the parishes with glebe only, 517; and the benefices without glebes, 366.

copies are being taken, and they shall be sent to England. They had under consideration the state of the Protestant Charter Schools when the Primate was obliged to go to England, and he adjourned the Board *sine die*. I had intended to prevent them from meeting by an order from government till he should return, in imitation of the measure adopted last winter by the Duke of Bedford when Mr. Grattan and Mr. Corry went over to attend Parliament. But the Primate assured me that the result of the inquiry into the state of the Charter Schools was satisfactory; that he thought the majority of the Board were disposed to support them, even if they should meet during his absence. I have, therefore, thought it best to leave them to themselves, and I do not find that they have met since the Primate went. I imagine that we shall not be able to do anything on education in the next session of Parliament; but from all that I can learn, I believe that it will turn out that there are more schools in Ireland, and more people taught to read and write, than in England. We want discipline, not learning.

Mr. Foster had not taken any steps in the inquiry into Maynooth College before I came over, but I have commenced upon it. It will be conducted by the visitors under the direction of the Lord-Lieutenant. The Chancellor and Chief Justice have now before them a memorandum of the points to which the inquiry is to be directed, which I propose to put in the form of a letter to the visitors; and as the visitation cannot be made till after the term, which commences the 6th of next month, I shall send the draft of this letter to England, so that you will have an opportunity of adding to or altering it.

As far as I can learn from private sources of information, the number of priests fairly required for Ireland is 2000, the number educated in the College is 200, and the greatest number of years required for their education is seven. Supposing one in fifty die of the 2000 every year, which for persons of that age and description is a large number, the annual demand would be forty priests, and the supply of the College would be about thirty priests. However, you will have all this before you, and will be enabled to lay it before Parliament in the most regular manner.

In respect to the police, the difficulty will be to prevail upon the corporation of Dublin to allow the government to appoint the police magistrates who must have jurisdiction in the city.

This is the great difference between Dublin and Westminster. In Dublin a great proportion of the town, and the seat of the government, are under the jurisdiction of the corporation; and those parts are so intermixed with the others not under them, that it is not possible to frame a system of police which shall not place the whole under one general superintendence.

The corporation did submit for some years to allow government to name the police magistrates, and the police was conducted under the superintendence of government. But this was a subject of constant complaint in the corporation and out of doors, and frequent discussion in the Irish Parliament; and it ended in the repeal of that law and the establishment of the system which exists at present. However, we must try it, for nothing can be worse than the existing police of the city. In respect to the police of the county, I am still of the same opinion that I have always entertained. In some parts of Ireland we must give salaries to the magistrates to induce them to do their duty; and I only fear that from the general demand for offices of profit, if we once give a salary to one magistrate in any county, we shall be obliged to extend the system in all parts of the country.

I have not yet received any papers on the fortifications.

Ever yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[176.]

To Lord Castlereagh.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 27th Oct., 1807.

It is expected that Sir James Stewart, the member for Donegal, will not live long; and as the probability of another election in that county will render the office of Sheriff important, I much fear that we shall be embarrassed between the claims of Lord Abercorn and Lord Conyngham. Lord Conyngham's interest now returns one member certainly, if not both; and if Sir James Stewart should die, he will certainly return the member upon the vacancy. He is more jealous of interference in the county of Donegal than upon any other point; the encouragement given to Gardiner at the last general election was the cause of the difficulty which we had in fixing him in the session of Parliament, and I am convinced that we shall lose

him entirely if we should give the Sheriff to Lord Abercorn at present. On the other hand Lord Abercorn will be equally offended, although probably he might not withdraw his support, if we should attend to Lord Conyngham's recommendation of the Sheriff.

According to the rules by which decisions on these subjects are generally guided, Lord Conyngham ought to have the nomination, for he has the return, and is a friend; and I am convinced that Huskisson and the Treasury would decide in his favour. It is possible that as Lord Abercorn is certainly not prepared for a contest in Donegal at present, and he would certainly be beaten if he were to attempt one, he would consent to Lord Conyngham's nomination in consideration of the justice of his claim, of the rules which usually decide questions of this description, and of the injury which the government will sustain by the loss of the friendship and support of Lord Conyngham.

I wish that you would try what you can do with him, or that you would turn it over in your mind, and suggest some expedient. I have had no application from, or communication with, either party on this subject.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[177.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 27th Oct., 1807.

Mr. Foster has written to Mr. Rose upon the necessity of an increase of the silver coinage in Ireland to the amount of between 400,000*l.* and 500,000*l.* I shall be obliged to you if you will look at his letter to Rose, and if you should approve of his proposal, forward the execution of the measure.

It appears that throughout the south of Ireland and in Connaught small notes are in circulation to a very large amount, notwithstanding the laws which prohibit the issue of them, and nothing can cure the evil excepting the substitution of a silver coinage.

The removal of the 13th and 63rd, which occupied part of our line in Tipperary, has delayed the execution of our measures for restoring tranquillity in that county. The disturbances have spread into Kerry, and I acknowledge that I am very anxious

to have our military force fixed for the winter, that we may set to work in earnest to get the better of these disturbances.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[178.]

To the Earl of Enniskillen.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 28th Oct., 1807.

I read over with much pleasure the Report of the Board of Education on the state of the school of Enniskillen, and I agree with them and with you in thinking that the arrangement proposed by Dr. Burrowes is a beneficial one to the public, and ought to be adopted. But the Board of Education have by no means finished their labours; they have much still to examine and report upon; and it would be doing injustice to them and to the public to take up and act upon a part of their report, however advisable and necessary, and even certain that the measure which they have recommended in that part will be carried into execution.

I therefore do not propose to do anything in the next session of parliament on this subject, unless the reports should be complete; and I rather imagine that others will have the same delicacy.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[179.]

To the Earl of Rosse.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 28th Oct., 1807.

I have to apologise for having so long omitted to acknowledge the receipt of your letter respecting your wish that your brother should be promoted to the Bench upon a vacancy which you supposed then to exist; but the fact is, that I was desirous of hearing from Mr. Long before I wrote to you; because I acknowledge that I did not understand what he told me, respecting what had passed on this same subject when he held the office which I now fill, in the manner in which it is stated in your Lordship's letter. I enclose an extract of a letter which

I received from him yesterday, which shows what he recollects of what passed between you and him.

From all that I hear of Mr. Parsons's talents and character, it appears to me quite impossible that much time should elapse before a seat upon the Bench will be offered to his acceptance; but I know that the same directions which Mr. Long says that Mr. Pitt gave to him, Lord Hawkesbury gave to the Duke of Richmond and me; and the Duke is unwilling to enter into any engagement which shall preclude him from making the selection of the person who will be represented to him as most fit to be promoted when the vacancy will occur. I know your Lordship's principles well enough to be convinced that you will not disapprove of a determination to adhere to instructions which must be so beneficial to the country, although it may keep in suspense the object respecting which you are so anxious. On this ground I have no hesitation in asking you to excuse me for declining to enter into any engagement respecting promotion to the Bench.

Believe me, my dear Lord,

Ever yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Samuel Guinness, Esq.

[180.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 29th Oct., 1807.

I have to apologise for having omitted to answer your letter till this day.

I am concerned that you should consider yourself aggrieved by any act of the legislature which was proposed by me; and I acknowledge that I imagined that as a four per cent. government debenture was more valuable by ten per cent. than a paving debenture, the holders of the latter would have no reason to complain of the arrangements in the Act, more particularly as they have an option to continue to hold their paving debentures. I had also reason to hope that the Act in question would give universal satisfaction, as, after having been considered by my predecessor in office and those gentlemen in his confidence, it was under the consideration of the late as well as of the present parliament; and as it is of the nature of a private Act, its provisions must have been publicly known in

Dublin before they were finally enacted during six months at least, and I never heard of any objection to them for which a remedy was not provided.

Upon other points of your letter I think it unnecessary to make any observation.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[181.]

To the Right Hon. Charles Long.

MY DEAR LONG,

Dublin Castle, 29th Oct., 1807.

I have received your letter of the 24th, and have written to Lord Rosse on the subject of his application to me in favour of his brother. I am convinced that Lord Manners will not recommend Mr. Parsons for the first vacancy on the Bench, though he may probably for the second, if Serjeant Ball should not accept it.

I shall be concerned if we lose Marsden's assistance, although I think that I can do very well without it. I am convinced that we should not derive from his services in the office which he proposed for himself all the benefits which you expected, for the reasons which I before stated to you; and I really find Trail a most useful and able assistant. But there is one objection to that arrangement which we have not yet considered, and that is, that we have not the means of paying Marsden. The surplus of the civil list is not quite 3000*l.* per annum, and there are secret Union pensions upon it to the amount of 2100*l.*; and the Duke, with reason in my opinion, is desirous of getting 700*l.* per annum for his private secretary. There is nothing for Marsden, at all events. I don't see how he could be better provided for than he is, being out of the office of Under Secretary; and he is in a situation in any manner in which government may require his services.

I wish that you would explain to him that neither the Duke nor I entertain any prejudice against him, and that both would be happy to have an opportunity of employing him.

If the want of vigour in the government is applied to the state of affairs in the south of Ireland, it must be attributed to the want of means. On the day after I arrived, the plan was

formed for the military operations in Waterford, Tipperary, and Limerick, and the orders prepared; but no sooner has a regiment been in march or arrived at its station, than the orders have arrived to send it on foreign service or to England. The second battalions which we have are sufficient; those which we are to have cannot be much better. The militia is, of course, in a state of disorganisation at present, and nothing good but the garrison battalions. Under these circumstances the disturbances have certainly not decreased; but I must observe that proclamation under the Insurrection Act would have been entirely inefficient, from the want of troops to carry it into execution.

I am very much obliged to you for what you intend to do for Sydenham.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Marquess of Abercorn.

[182.]

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 30th Oct., 1807.

You will receive by this post the commissions of the two gentlemen recommended by your Lordship to be appointed Deputy-Governors of Tyrone; and the commissions of those gentlemen recommended by Mr. Knox will be sent to Lord Northland, in conformity with your desire.

Parties from each of the regiments of militia have been ordered into their counties to take charge of the men raised for the new levy, whether by ballot or enlistment, and they will report themselves to the Governor and Deputy-Governors of the county. I hope, therefore, that the inconvenience which you mention will not be felt at Omagh and Strabane for any great length of time.

These parties will be increased in numbers as soon as the period for volunteering will be over.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your most obedient and faithful humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[183.]

To the Earl of Westmoreland.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 30th Oct., 1807.

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will let me know the result of your communication with Lord ——— on the subject of his letter to me, which I showed to you when I was in London. I cannot submit to the language used in that letter upon an act of duty towards the government, and if it be not withdrawn, I must attribute the harshness of the expressions which it contains to something more than the irritation of the moment, occasioned by disappointment, and I shall be under the necessity of adopting measures which shall prevent the writer or any other person from using such language in a letter to me in future.

I acted as the agent of government throughout the arrangement for the promotion to the Bishopric of ———, and could have no interest or view in it excepting the honour of government and the benefit of the church; and I shall not allow Lord ——— to pass judgment upon me in terms not used by gentlemen with impunity. I hope to have an early answer to this letter, and that you will return me that which Lord ——— wrote to me.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[184.]

To the Earl of Donoughmore.

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 31st Oct., 1807.

I have the honour to inform you that in consideration of the disturbed state of the counties of Limerick, Tipperary, and part of Waterford, the Commander of the Forces has directed the officers commanding the troops in these counties to make such a distribution of them as will best enable them to aid the civil magistrates to carry the laws into execution, and restore and effectually preserve the peace.

His Grace the Lord Lieutenant has directed me to request that you will communicate with the officer commanding the troops at Clonmell, and that you will make an exertion to restore the peace of the county in your neighbourhood.

The patrols which have been made by the troops in the

neighbourhood of the city, and in the disturbed parts of the county of Limerick, have had the effect of preventing the meetings of the disturbers of the public tranquillity, and the perpetration of the crimes of which they had before been guilty. The proposed distribution of the troops will be made with a view to extend the same system throughout the disturbed parts of the counties of Tipperary and Waterford, and to connect it with the system adopted in the county of Limerick, from which measures it is hoped that if the magistrates and peace officers will accompany the patrols of the troops, the same good effect will be produced in those parts.

In the execution of this system it may be necessary to remove the troops to a distance from their ordinary quarters and barracks; and the Lord Lieutenant has directed me to request that care may be taken to avoid scattering the troops in the quarters in which they may be placed.

If this system of measures should succeed, and the meetings of the disturbers of the public peace and the perpetration of these crimes should be thus prevented, it is to be hoped that some persons may be prevailed upon by encouragement, protection, and rewards, to come forward with information on oath of the injuries which they have received, and the persons from whom they have received them, which may enable government to adopt such farther measures as may be necessary to secure good order, and to make the people of the country feel that the public peace cannot be violated and the law broken and insulted with impunity. That you may be fully apprized of the powers with which magistrates and peace officers are invested for the suppression of the present disturbances, I have the honour to transmit to you some extracts from the statutes for suppressing tumultuous risings, by which it, among other things, appears that persons assembling with arms by day or by night are guilty of a high misdemeanor, and may be dispersed, seized, resisted, or opposed by the peace officers, and if death ensue such peace officers and all persons aiding and assisting them are indemnified.

I am farther commanded to request that you will have the goodness to transmit to me for his Grace's information an account of the several murders, burglaries, robberies, or other outrages committed in your neighbourhood since the last assizes, specifying the time, the place, the nature of the outrages,

the names of the persons who were the objects of them, and in what instances any of the persons concerned in them are known or have been apprehended, and particularly the nature and quantity of the arms taken in each case.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[Similar letters to other magistrates for the counties Tipperary and Waterford.]

[185.]

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 2nd Nov., 1807.

By desire of Mr. Perceval I had, when in London, purchased and perused with the greatest pleasure the pamphlet which you have sent me, and I admired it as it deserves, without knowing who was the author. The indifference of the gentlemen of the country and even of the clergy on the subject of the transactions in different counties relative to tithes has given me the greatest uneasiness. I imagine that this question, like many others affecting vital interests, is not understood in Ireland, even by those whose interests it more immediately concerns. To this ignorance of the nature and effects of the question I attribute the conduct of the clergy. The gentry are actuated by other motives. In some instances they expect to derive benefit from the plunder of the Church; in others they believe that to be true which they hear every day, and which is uncontradicted; and in all they are unfortunately looking for popularity with the Roman Catholics, among whom it would be most useful to them; and they are afraid to step forward like men to oppose the agitation of a question the discussion of which they may be convinced is dangerous, or to act in the discussion, if it must take place, according to the dictates of truth and their own judgment. This is a true picture of the state of the public mind upon this question.

The situation of government is in the mean time most delicate. Our opponents declare they had a plan, which I think very doubtful; but supposing they had one, I suspect that it would not have gone to apply a remedy to any one of the evils complained of, and I believe, if I know what their plan was, it would

do neither good nor harm, except that it disturbs a subject which cannot be disturbed with safety. It is evident that, notwithstanding our disinclination to touch the question, it will be discussed, and any public effort which we might make to stop these discussions would only have the effect of rendering them more violent and mischievous. But although we cannot work publicly, we may in secret; and I have succeeded in preventing meetings in more than one county in Ireland, and have softened the violence of the resolutions adopted by the gentry of others whose meetings I could not prevent. Perhaps in these last endeavours my success has done more harm than good, as the violence of these gentry would have tended more forcibly to expose their folly.

I enclose the copy of a letter which I have written to one gentleman,* which I believe had the effect of preventing a meeting in the county of Limerick. Copies of this letter have been sent to other quarters, and have, I believe, had some effect.

I agree with you that it would be desirable to have the true state of this question brought before the public, and I propose to try what I can do in that way. But you, who have had a share in the conduct of this government, must be aware of the deficiency of the great means, *money*, for services of this description.

As we shall certainly have a discussion upon tithes in the next session of Parliament, I am anxious to collect, for the King's ministers, information from the most authentic sources of the real state of them in this country.

It would be very desirable that we should be able to state on what articles tithes are taken generally in the different provinces in Ireland; what is the acreable rate taken for each article where a modus prevails, either by toleration from the clergy (for there is no legal modus in Ireland) or by special agreement; what is the proportion of tithe in the possession of lay improPRIATORS. I shall be much obliged to you if you can point out to me any mode by which I can obtain authentic information upon these points.

Believe me, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* See letter to Lord Clarina, p. 144.

[186.]

To the Right Hon. John Foster.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 5th Nov., 1807.

I have not yet received from the Chancellor the copy of the paper which I gave you respecting the inquiry into Maynooth College. He was desirous of consulting the Chief Baron before he should return it to me, and he came to town only the day before yesterday. It was never intended that the visitation should be made till after the term, and you shall have early notice of the time fixed for it, as well as information of the objects to which the inquiry will be directed.

The Excise papers are not yet all come in, but letters are prepared on some of the subjects upon which our opinions are decided; and the Lord-Lieutenant has them now under consideration, and they will go to the Board as soon as he will return them.

I will draw his attention to the very large subject to which you have adverted in your letter, but I shall be happy to have some conversation with you upon it.

I have got the Custom-house papers, which I will give you when I shall see you.

I have had no answer from Lord Hawkesbury respecting the coinage, and I conclude that it is intended to do as you have suggested upon that subject.

Ever, my dear Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[187.]

To the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 6th Nov., 1807.

I agree entirely in opinion with you respecting the inexpediency of making any concession to this country in consequence of the turbulence and disturbances of the moment, being convinced that the concessions which we might make, and the measures which we might adopt, however desirable on other grounds, would only increase the evils which we might intend that they should remove. The country may now be deemed to be in such a state as to render it impossible for the King's ministers to do anything on the subject of tithes consistently with this principle, although they might be conscious that they

had discovered a measure, practicable in itself, which might answer all the objects which any sober man might have in view in a reform of the tithe system. But I still think it desirable that we should canvass the subject and make up our minds to the measure which we should adopt, if we should find it expedient at any future time to do anything, or, at all events, to prepare ourselves for the discussions which we shall certainly have upon this subject in the next session of Parliament. On this ground I trouble you with this letter.

I have read over and have considered with attention Lord Redesdale's plan for a modification of the tithe system in Ireland, to which I think there are several important objections. I always consider tithes in the same light as every other description of property, and that the state ought to interfere with it only in a case of very evident necessity; that the measure of its interference ought to be the extent of that necessity, and that the clergy should have a full and fair equivalent for what should be taken from them.

Lord Redesdale's bill is intended to force a *modus*, that is, it enables the Crown to fix upon arbitrators who are to settle for twenty-one years the *modus*, or compensation, which each clergyman is to receive in lieu of his tithes. These arbitrators are to decide upon the circumstances of the case. If tithe be considered as a property, I know of no circumstances which can guide the decision of the arbitrators, in fixing this *modus*, excepting the real value of the tenth of the titheable produce in the parish, upon an average of a number of years. If this be the measure of the *modus* to be fixed by the arbitrators, the farmers of the country will pay about three or four times the amount which they have paid hitherto, and the real grievances of tithes will be proportionably increased. In point of fact, the clergy of Ireland do not now receive a thirtieth instead of a tenth anywhere, and they do not receive anything on by far the majority of the produce on which they have a right to demand the tithe. If the average of the receipts of the clergy, or any other arbitrary calculation of the arbitrators, is to be made the measure of the *modus* or compensation to the clergy, there is an end to the right of tithe. The clergy will have a right under this bill to something else which the arbitrators may choose to give; but the amount must depend on their good will.

Admitting that it would be possible to allow the arbitrators

to fix the amount of the compensation by a reference to the receipts of the clergy for the last five years, what principle is to guide the arbitrators in fixing its amount at the end of the fourteen years to take place at the end of the twenty-one years? The average will no longer answer. If it be adopted, it will fix the money income of the clergyman for ever, which all admit ought not to be done; and yet it will then be equally impossible, as at present, to revert to the real tenth of the produce, which is the only fair standard of the clergyman's right.

So far my objections to Lord Redesdale's plan apply to its principles; but there are others to the detail of it. The expense which will attend its execution will be enormous. These Commissioners must consider in detail the produce of every field, each of which will produce a controversy. Is the clergyman or the parish to bear this expense? Then come the objections stated by yourself, with many others which occur upon a view of the detailed execution of the plan which appear to me to render it quite impracticable.

Is it, then, impossible to do anything? I am afraid it is nearly so, without violating private property. In fact, tithes are not the real grievance. Exorbitant rents are more heavily felt, and they are the cause that the payment of tithe is so much complained of.

I enclose you a paper which I wrote some time ago, and submitted to some friends in this country, in order that they might consider the subjects to which it relates. You will there see my opinion of the measures to be adopted with a view to the state of the church in this country. A law to enforce residence would do much good, as well in relation to tithes as other matters; and I think that a law to enable the clergy to let their tithes for twenty-one years to the occupier of the soil, giving them an easy mode of recovering their rent from the tenant, would answer every purpose of a reasonable modus, at the same time that it would preserve the right of property of the clergy. The occupiers of the land would willingly take these leases, and the clergy, when forced to reside in their benefices, would readily grant them, more particularly if their mode of recovering their dues should be rendered by the law more easy under them than it is at present.

I have some reason to believe that if the late government ever had any measure in contemplation on this subject, it was that to

which I have above referred. In regard to the measure last mentioned in the enclosed paper, I am convinced, upon further consideration and inquiry, that it will not answer. There is such a disproportion in the saleable value of tithes and land, that it would be impossible to exchange the one for the other, excepting at such a loss of present income to the clergy as would be quite ruinous to that body.

I beg you to consider these papers with Lord Hawkesbury, and let me know your opinion on them. If you should approve of the ideas which they contain, let me know whether I shall have them put in the form of bills. Your decision upon this point will be guided very much by the state of the public mind in this country; and upon this point you will have observed not only that the disturbed counties in the south have become more quiet, but that the discussions upon tithes have not been so general as was expected. At the same time I must tell you that the impression throughout the country is very general that tithes are a grievance, and that something ought to be done to relieve the people from their weight. Indeed I have not spoken to anybody upon the subject, excepting the Archbishop of Dublin and the Bishop of Meath, who are not of that opinion; at the same time that they are too short-sighted to see, or their own immediate interests prevent them from seeing, that the cause of the grievance is the exorbitant rent demanded for land.

I send by this post to Lord Hawkesbury a copy of the Report of the Board of Education on certain schools, and I hope before the session of Parliament to have the fullest information on the state of education in this country. I am afraid, however, that it will not be practicable to come forward with any proposition till the Board will have finished its labours.

I have not yet got from the Chancellor the papers regarding the Maynooth inquiry; but he has promised to send them to me, and as soon as I shall receive them they shall go to England, in order that you may consider the points to which we propose to direct our inquiries. You will have full time, as the visitation cannot take place till after Christmas.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Right Hon. Spencer Perceval to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR,

Downing Street, 3rd Nov., 1807.

I am exceedingly obliged to you for your letter which I received some days since, and would have answered sooner had I been prepared, as I ought to have been, with a copy of Lord Redesdale's draft of a bill respecting tithes. I now send you one.

In sending it I beg not to be considered as approving of it. On the general subject, with whatever ability or judgment it can be handled, and however well the more prominent difficulties might be obviated, I certainly am not without considerable doubts. The yielding upon a great point of national establishment, the breaking in upon an ancient and extensive system, not upon the ground of a certain conviction that you are reforming and improving that system, but on the importunity of unjust and exaggerated complaint, showing itself almost in the shape of rebellion, is and must be a dangerous thing for government at all times, and is only repeating in a fresh and striking instance the unfortunate lesson which has been too often and too successfully taught in Ireland, that if discontent will but be turbulent enough, it will force its object from a yielding government.

On the particular plan, which, with one reserve, I have a strong opinion is the best that can be thought of, I have objections, principally owing to the great difficulty and embarrassment in which the rector will be able to compel payment of his rent, and the persons compelled subsequently to apportion it amongst themselves. I do not at all see how subdivisions of property, made after the assessment imposed, are to have their respective portions of tithe-rent fixed upon them; and yet some provision must be made for this. A man dies, leaves his estate to three daughters; the whole estate is subject to one rent. This is subdivided into three equal parts, or unequal ones, as it may happen, upon a sale of part and an inheritance of the rest. Who is to say how much each portion of the subdivided estate is to be charged with? There must almost be a necessity for a standing commission to arrange these points.

The point, however, on which I most entirely differ from Lord Redesdale, is on the distinction which he makes in tithe of lay and other improPRIATORS. I cannot conceive that there can be any principle which will justify Parliament in interfering with the tithe, but that which founds itself on the impolicy and the odious and oppressive quality of the right. If that is the ground, the remedy should be as extensive as the evil, and go to all tithe; for the idea that in the hands of the Church it is more abused and more rigidly exacted than in lay hands, I believe to be directly the contrary to the truth.

I am sorry to hear you say that you have no chance of being able to do anything upon the subject of the Irish schools this session: I think, if possible, we should do something upon them. As to the point of residence, I agree with the general opinion. You are right that my objection to Sir W. Scott's bill was not at all against its remedies for non-residence, but against its facilities and pretences for that evil. I shall very willingly and

favourably examine any bill of Dr. Duigenan's, which may have sufficient of the remedy and little or nothing of the licence. On the Maynooth College I wait for the report of your visitors, and

I am, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

SPENCER PERCEVAL.

Excuse this very hasty scrawl, though scarcely excusable on such important subjects.

MEMORANDUM RELATIVE TO TITHES BY SIR ARTHUR WELLESLEY, REFERRED TO IN THE PRECEDING LETTER; WITH REMARKS BY MR. PERCEVAL AND BY LORD HAWKESBURY.

Remarks by the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval.

I think that such a law, without many of the exceptions (the fewer the better), would do great good. There must, however, be some exceptions; and therefore that law will not in my mind do alone any more than it does now. There must be a better provision for the maintenance of the resident curate where the rector does not reside. I mean to renew my attempt to carry such a Bill through Parliament for England this next session, and when I have got it into such a shape as to make it usefully intelligible, I will send over a copy of it to Ireland, that Sir Arthur Wellesley may consider whether a similar Bill for Ireland, or the same extended to Ireland, should be attempted.

Agreed in great measure; but I should query whether some further stimulus or assistance may not be necessary.

In order to remedy the inconveniences and abuses which exist in the ecclesiastical branch of the government of Ireland, the following measures appear necessary:—

First. A law to compel the residence of the clergy in their benefices.

Sir William Scott's law, as applicable to the Church in England, without the exceptions, would probably answer all the purposes required. See the reports of the bishops for the necessity of such a law.

It would not be necessary to wait for the enactment or execution of the law, till churches and glebe-houses will have been built in all the parishes. Oblige the clergy to reside on their benefices, and they will soon have churches and glebe-houses.

The next subject for consideration is that of tithes.

The inconveniences and grievances felt by everybody on the subject of tithes in Ireland are to be attributed to causes with which the clergy have but little to do.

First. There exists in Ireland no modus.

Secondly. A practice prevails throughout Ireland of *canting* land, or letting it to the highest bidder; and those who bid for it consider only in what mode they can get possession of the land, and, in their eagerness to obtain possession, omit to advert to other claims upon it, in

If the claims of the clergy increase after the letting, which by law they must, in consequence of improvements, still the *total* made up of these claims, and the landlord's rent, will be less in respect of the whole value of the produce of the lease than such *total* was at first, because the rent remains stationary.

addition to the rent to be paid to the landlord.

It therefore frequently happens that no provision is left for the claims of the clergyman, which must increase with the progress of improvement; and those who by their own acts bring upon themselves these difficulties, attribute them entirely to the unjust claims of the clergy.

Thirdly. The leases given to tenants are usually for a great length of time, and admitting that an allowance had been made for the claims of the clergy when the terms of the lease were settled, which is not frequently the case, it cannot be supposed that the tenant will have adverted to the augmentation of the clergyman's demand in the progress of time owing to the improved state of the land.

Fourthly. A great proportion of the land in Ireland is exempt from tithes. In the south of Ireland, therefore, in which there is a great proportion of grazing land, the clergy are obliged to take the tithe of potatoes, from which they refrain in other parts.

Fifthly. A large proportion of the people who conceive that they bear the burthen of the tithes, profess a religion different from that of which the clergy, who receive the tithes, are the ministers.

Sixthly. The law is but imperfectly administered in Ireland, and the clergy experience the greatest difficulty, owing to frauds, combinations, craft, and violence, in ascertaining the quantity or value of their property; in drawing it, or recovering the value if subtracted.

From all that I can learn, I am of opinion that the clergy in Ireland do not take tithe upon a very large proportion of the articles on which the law allows it to them. They do not take the tithe of potatoes, the principal consumption of the people in three provinces out of the four; and it is generally understood that they do not receive a thirtieth rather than a tenth of the articles on which they demand a tithe.

The tithe, I take for granted, upon this article, must by law be due in all the provinces alike. Care, I think, should be taken, while due credit is given to the clergy for their moderation in enforcing their demands, not to found *too much of the argument* against the abolition of the tithe upon that moderation. Because the inference from relying upon that moderation as an argument is that there would be ground for complaint, if not for abolition, but for that moderation, and it would be no unfair plea to the legislature to desire that the law should not be left in a state which enabled the clergy at their pleasure to enforce their demands to an extent which such argument and inference would show to be excessive.

I think there is great weight in this argument; but the reply to it is obvious, upon the ground furnished by the admission which I have queried on the other side of this loaf. "If you think such an arrangement upon the average amount of the *receipt* would be a fair one for the present, then you admit that a twentieth or a thirtieth is all that it is fair the clergy should have instead of the tenth; where then is the difficulty for the

I am therefore of opinion that it is impossible to adopt the supposed remedy of reducing the number of the articles on which the law ought to give them a claim, and to exclude from it particularly potatoes. The title of this article is taken only in Munster, where potatoes are an article of commerce, as well as of the consumption of the people. Moreover, from the large quantity and value of the land in Munster allotted to grazing, the clergy could not subsist if prevented by law from taking the tithe of potatoes.

The next remedy for the inconveniences attending the tithe system is the establishment of a modus by compulsion. This modus must be settled by authority, or by an arbitration; and it might be made to last for a term of years.

The difficulty of this settlement would be, that the authority, or arbitration appointed to settle the modus, must refer to the tenth of the produce for the standard of the claim of the clergy, and, as I have above observed, the clergy seldom receive a thirtieth. The consequence would be, that the tenants would have to pay nearly three times as much as they do at present. If the modus should be established by authority upon an average of the receipts of the last five years, the arrangement would be a *fair one for the present*, but it could not answer for the future, and would be resisted by the clergy on the ground that their receipts would thus be fixed for ever, and could not rise with the progress of improvement and of necessary expense in the country.

Another notion of reform of the tithe system is to give the clergy an acreable cess on all the lands of the parish. This plan is liable to the objection,—first, that it subjects to the charge of the maintenance of the clergy lands which have for seventy years at least been exempt from that charge, and must derange the whole system of lease, settlement, &c., of those lands; secondly, that it fixes for ever the stipends of the clergy.

arbitrator not only to settle the amount of the average *receipt* now, but also the proportion which that average receipt bears to the whole produce of titheable articles in the parish? and if that proportion is found to be a twentieth or a thirtieth, then if a twentieth or a thirtieth is a fair proportion now, a twentieth or a thirtieth will be a fair proportion under the future improvements; and such proportion may just as well regulate the new arrangement and valuation which is to be made at the end of fourteen years as the proportion of a *tenth*.

This proposal is to *enable* the clergy to let, not to compel them. I conceive to compel them would be impossible, because there would be a want of a third party, who should fix the value of the rent; and if you could find such third party, yet the principle upon which he would have to fix the rent would be open to all the difficulty which is felt as to the arbitrators under the scheme last examined. Taking it then as being necessarily optional, I cannot but fear that the clergyman fixing upon his rent would be thought as exorbitant and oppressive as he is now when he wants to lease his tithe for his own life; and the remedy would certainly not be universal, though mutual interest might make it more extensive than may at present be thought.

I do not, however, see any such objection to this remedy, as far as it goes, being attempted, as not to wish that it should be put into the shape of a Bill: when viewing it in its detail,

None of these plans therefore will answer as a remedy for the inconveniences which exist, and to give the clergy a fair stipend, increasing with the increase of the produce, and the progress of improvement and of necessary expense in the country.

From the causes which I have above enumerated as operating upon the tithe system, it will appear that the principal evil is the uncertainty of the demand of the clergy. It is not practicable to apply a complete remedy to this evil consistently with the acknowledgment of the right of property in the Church, and with the necessity of providing for the growing increase of the expense of living of its ministers. The following plan might answer some purposes, and it does not appear to be liable to any inconveniences of importance.

To pass a law to *enable* the clergy to grant leases of their tithes to the occupiers of the land for the term of years during which they would have the lease of the land from the landlord, not exceeding twenty-one years. This lease to be made with the consent of the patron of the living and of the ordinary; and in case the ordinary should be the patron, the consent of the dean and chapter, and of the archbishop, to the lease, should be necessary.

This law to contain provisions against the taking of fines for the grant of these leases, and to leave with the clergyman the powers which he now has to recover his tithes in case of the non-payment by the tenant of the rent stipulated in the lease, and an action of debt upon the lease for the rent accrued.* The lease to be binding upon the clergyman and his successors for the term of years, as long as the stipulated rent should be paid. In case of a division of the

* I find that it would be possible to give the clergyman a power of distress, which would be stronger than the proposed action of debt. In proportion as we shall be able to increase the power of recovery of the clergyman under these leases, we shall have a better chance of success from this measure.

its merits or defects may be more easily appreciated. I fear it might tend to impoverish the Church. A clergyman, under the first impression of gratitude to his patron for his preferment, would be unable in many cases to resist the terms which that patron might wish to impose; and with that view I think no clergyman should be permitted to let his tithes so as to bind his successor till he had been a year at least in his living.

I believe barren or waste land is by the law of Ireland exempt from tithe for the first *seven* years; after it is taken into cultivation, might not this be extended to *fourteen* years? and if the power to lease, so as to bind the successor, is granted, perhaps, though twenty-one years might be too long, a shorter period might be admitted. The validity of the lease should depend upon the rent bearing some settled proportion to the *bonâ fide* value of the tithe at the time of granting it, so that the fraud of the tenant in attempting to overreach the clergyman should defeat itself.

I doubt whether the remedy by distress is not nearly as obnoxious as taking the tithe in kind; but at all events, if such remedy is given, the priority of the distress of the clergyman and of the landlord should be regulated, otherwise the landlord might sweep away the whole. If the arrear of rent of tithe did not exceed a certain proportion, I think he must have the priority if that remedy is resorted to; and the landlord on his distress must be bound to leave enough upon the premises to satisfy such arrear. Query, whether the landlords would like this?

This is a grievance which must remain, as long as the establishment is maintained out of the property of the inhabitants.

lands before the expiration of the lease, the clergyman to have the option whether to continue the lease to the parties or to make a new one, or to take his tithes. In case the tenant should dispose of his interest in the lease of the land, he must likewise dispose of his interest in the lease of the tithes, as the principle of this arrangement must be that the occupier should have the lease of the tithes.

The advantage of this arrangement would be,—first, that it does not infringe the rights, but rather enlarges the privileges of property in the Church; secondly, that it gives to the clergy themselves the means of establishing a substitute for a modus; thirdly, when the leases of the tithes will exist, it will be impossible for any man to hope to avoid the payment of them; fourthly, by the grant of these leases they will put an end to the apprehensions of the continually increasing demands of the clergyman, and to the consequent irritation existing, and increased by the demands between the Protestant clergy and the people of the country.

But this law would not be a complete remedy for all the existing evils. It is possible that, in many cases, these leases would not be granted; and even if they were granted, the payment of a stipend to the Protestant clergy by a Roman Catholic people would continue to operate as a grievance.

A third measure, then, which might be adopted, would be to enable the clergy to exchange their tithes for land.

The mode in which I would propose to carry this measure into execution should be,—first, to enable the clergyman to exchange with the landlord the tithe of his estate for a portion of the estate, with the consent of the patron of the living, the ordinary, and a board to be established in Dublin for the regulation of all matters under this law.

The estate to be vested in the clergyman in the same manner as his

This would be most ruinous; a poor clergyman having his property removed from him in a distant parish, could never have justice done him; and if he had, the mere expense of looking after it would ruin him.

I do not think this last expedient could be resorted to with any safety to the Church.

SPENCER PERCEVAL.

I agree in the propriety of having the draft of a Bill drawn up on the first of these two last suggestions for consideration.

tithes and glebe lands now are; and due provision to be made against granting leases for more than thirty-one years; fines on leases, leases on trust, &c. &c., such as consent of patron and ordinary to leases.

The tithes to be vested in the proprietor of the estate in the same manner as before in the clergyman; till the expiration of the existing lease of the land; and then the land to be tithe free.

In case of leases for ever, or for a term of years above one hundred still to come, the clergyman to have the power of alienating the tithes to the tenant. Each portion of the land held by lease under such tenant to become tithe free when such portion of the land will be out of lease.

In cases in which the landlord, or tenant upon a long lease, should not have land in the parish which would suit the clergyman, the tithes may be exchanged for lands in any other parts of Ireland, with consent as above.

Trustees of persons under settlement, minors, femmes couvertes, and lunatics, to have the power of alienating their lands for tithes.

All the provisions of both laws ought to be extended to lay improPRIATORS.

In proportion as this measure would be carried into execution, the irritation against the clergy of the established Church would subside. Their property would so far be entirely separated from that of the farmer, and also of the landowner; and the many fruitful sources of litigation, animosity, and turbulence, resulting from tithes, would be for ever removed. The clergy would be in an independent and respectable situation, and the money value of their incomes would increase with the progress of improvement and the growth of expense.

The objection which has been stated to the adoption of this measure in England would not exist in Ireland, viz., that the clergy would become too powerful by the influence of their estates, and that of their private characters, if the irritation occasioned by

With respect to the last expedient, though it may be full of difficulties in execution, and, perhaps, ultimately impracticable, yet the principles appear to me to be good, and I should wish it therefore to be further considered and put into some regular shape. I approve of the principle solely because it *enables* the clergy to exchange tithes for land, and does not *force* them. The exchange should likewise be for land within a limited distance from their residence.

HAWKESBURY.

the demand of tithes were to cease. It would be most desirable to adopt any measure in Ireland which would create an influence over the minds of the people, in any persons of any description, but particularly in persons of the education, manners, and principles of the clergy of the Church of England, over whom the government and the property of the country must always have a considerable influence.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Right Hon. Spencer Perceval to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR,

I feel much indebted to you for the trouble you have given yourself in furnishing me with your thoughts upon the subject of tithes as applicable to the state of the Church in Ireland; and, in the first place, I am much pleased to find that you are so steady in the principle of considering it essential that they should be regarded as property, and be subjected to legal interference upon the same principles which would govern the legislature with regard to other property. I have read over your paper with much attention, and I have in the margin noted what occurred to me upon it: in that shape I will send it to Lord Hawkesbury, who shall be desired to return it to you with such additional observations as may occur to him. You are quite right that the grievance (except that which arises from the religious sentiment) is rent, and not tithe, and the only effect of lowering tithe would be to increase rent: the occupier, in nine cases out of ten, would find his case injured rather than improved. What landlords are there in England or Ireland, or at least how few are there in either country, who are contented to take not above a moiety, or less than their legal due? and yet this is, according to your account, what is done by the clergy in Ireland. Remove their claim, you will let in the landlord's with increased weight, applied not in the spirit of the clergyman's moderation, but in the spirit in which the landlord acts at present. Would this be mercy to the tenant? or would it redress the grievance? Nay, would it not more forcibly and plainly point out to the poor tenant what is the real grievance, and, without stopping his clamour or his discontent, only turn it, with its force strengthened by the sense of his success against the tithe of the parson, with new energy and spirit against the rent of his landlord?

The Residence Bill, without its exceptions, I thoroughly approve: when it is prepared I shall be glad to see a copy of it. Some exceptions I apprehend it must necessarily retain; and I must confess to Sir W. Scott that there is some difficulty in drawing the line exactly right, though I think there is no difficulty in seeing that he drew it at much too great a distance. As some exceptions, however, must be admitted, I think this Bill will not

do alone ; it will require a Bill for improving the maintenance of the curate, who resides where the rector is non-resident. I mean to renew my attempt for such a Bill for England in the next session, and will either support a similar one for Ireland, if thought advisable, or engraft the provisions for Ireland into our English Bill.

I should be glad that you would furnish me with a statement of the practical remedies which are now actually resorted to in Ireland for enabling or compelling the erection of glebe-houses and churches. I am desirous of doing something upon this subject in England, and should be glad to see how it is managed in Ireland in order to help my system here, or to suggest improvement to that in Ireland, if any should occur to me. I think if we could see our way to a due application of money to this object in both parts of the United Kingdom, that Parliament would readily give its assistance to so important an object.

I have not yet seen the report upon the schools : I will call upon Lord H. for it, and if anything occurs to me upon it you shall have my thoughts. Parliament will meet about the birth day—a day or two before or after.

Yours very truly,

S. PERCEVAL.

You will see my observations upon your tithe plans in the margin of your paper when returned to you ; but in the mean time I see no such objection to the plan for enabling the clergy to grant leases binding upon their successors as to incline me to discourage you from having a Bill for that purpose put into shape : it is easier to estimate its merits or inconveniences when it is seen in its detail.

I cannot but again thank you for the diligence with which you seem to have applied your mind to these important subjects, and I shall be happy indeed if I can cooperate with you to produce any real good ; but to yield to this clamour, which drives against it knows not what, would be ruin to the Church, without relief to the people.

Lord Hawkesbury to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR WELLESLEY,

London, 11th Dec., 1807.

I return the paper on tithes, which I have read with great satisfaction. You will see that I agree entirely with Perceval in thinking it desirable that a draft of a bill should be made for consideration, on the principle of enabling the clergy to let their tithes for a term of years. With respect to the other idea, of allowing them to exchange tithes for land, though I think such a measure full of difficulties, and perhaps would prove ultimately impracticable, yet as the principle of it appears to me to be unobjectionable, I wish it to be further considered before it is finally abandoned. I think it of essential importance that if any of these measures are to be adopted, we should carry the opinion of the Bishops along with us, and that we should be able to say, even at the time of first proposing such a measure, that it has been communicated to them, and meets with their approbation—I mean the approbation of a considerable majority of

them, and of those amongst them whose opinions would be entitled to most credit.

Nothing yet from Sir Sydney Smith. He was certainly off the Tagus on the 17th, and I trust Moore would be there before the end of the month. We are aware that nothing can be done if the Court are hostile; but if they are really determined to save their fleet and the Brazils, the means are in their power, and they have no mercy to expect from Bonaparte.

Believe me to be, my dear Wellesley,

Very sincerely yours,

HAWKESBURY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[188.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 9th Nov., 1807.

I have received Mr. Beckett's letter, with the extract of one from Lord Strangford to Mr. Canning, containing an account of the fleets in the south of Europe in a state of preparation for sea. The disaffected here have for some time expected an invasion from that quarter, but I have had no reason to believe that they expected its very early arrival. Some of the magistrates in the southern counties have stated their conviction that the existing disturbances were to be attributed to an expectation prevalent among the people that the French would invade Ireland at an early period, and a desire to be prepared with arms, and in a state of organization to assist them; but I have not seen any thing like a proof that any grounds existed on which they were warranted in holding this conviction.

The information, however, upon the whole is not to be disregarded, and I recommend the following measures to your consideration:—1st. Send a squadron to Bantry Bay, or, at all events, give directions that whenever the blockade of Brest is necessarily raised, a part of the blockading fleet should go over to Bantry instead of to Cawsand Bay or to Tor Bay. 2ndly. Send us the troops destined for Ireland as soon as you can, not trusting for their conveyance to a long sea voyage, which must be uncertain, and cannot be undertaken at all if the wind should favour the enemy in his departure from the south of Europe. 3rdly. Let us have 1st battalions, if possible, instead of 2nd battalions; or, if we are to have the latter, let us have with them a larger proportion of officers than are usually

attached to the 2nd battalions. Indeed it would be desirable to suspend the regulations according to which the transfer of officers between 1st and 2nd battalions is conducted, or to alter them entirely. Under the existing system the officers are constantly on the roads, or on the sea, between one battalion and another; no man knows how long he is to remain with his battalion; and as the officers of the 2nd are those which invariably go for the relief of the officers with the 1st, the 2nd battalions have never their proper, or indeed a necessary proportion of officers. These journeys and voyages are made at the expense of the public, and amount to no inconsiderable sum. 4thly. Let us know what corps we shall have for the winter, so that the distribution of the army for all possible events may be made as soon as possible.

I recommend that you should let me have an appointment to the staff of this army, to be notified to the army, and used only if necessity should require it. We are very badly off for want of intelligent general officers, and much might depend upon the measures to be adopted by the light troops immediately in the neighbourhood of the place where the enemy should land; and I think I should be more useful both to the Duke and Lord Harrington if I belonged to the staff of the army when the country should be invaded.

The counties of Tipperary, Waterford, and Limerick are nearly in the same state as they were. Unfortunately the troops were ordered away as fast as we posted them in those counties, and only a few days have elapsed since we have got together there a sufficient force. I have not heard that the magistrates have done any thing with it since they have had it at their disposal, notwithstanding that I have urged them to exertion.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Lord Hawkesbury to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR WELLESLEY,

London, 12th Nov., 1807.

I received this morning your letter of the 19th instant. From all I hear of preparations on the other side of the water, I cannot believe that the French are yet ready for any formidable attack upon Ireland. It is certainly, however, prudent to be prepared against it with all the means in

our power, more especially as the force which would prevent its success would contribute at all events so materially to the internal quiet and peace of the country. I will attend, as far as circumstances will permit, to all your suggestions. In the state of confusion in which we have hitherto been since the return of the fleet from Copenhagen, it has not yet been possible to complete our naval arrangements, particularly as there were some services which for a considerable length of time had required reinforcements, and which it has been impossible to provide for till now. I send you enclosed a memorandum of the land force which is destined for Ireland: a part of it is already on its way there, and the remainder will be sent as soon as it can be collected, and if possible by Liverpool and the ports on the western coast. We have not the means of supplying you at present with 1st battalions, but we trust you will be satisfied with the numbers and quality of the 2nd battalions which have been provided. I spoke to the Duke of York to-day respecting your wish to have an eventual staff appointment. He entirely approves of it, and will direct a letter of service to be sent you.

You will have heard that Lord Castlereagh has been very ill; he is somewhat better, and I hope by means of rest will recover before the meeting of Parliament. He has been obliged, however, to withdraw from all business for the present, which has unavoidably thrown a very heavy burden upon me.

We shall send you in a few days a copy of the Order in Council for preventing all intercourse whatever with the enemy's territories, or the countries occupied by their armies, except *through this country*. The situation of Portugal is become most critical: the last accounts were not favourable, though I do not yet quite despair of the Prince Regent going off to the Brazils with his fleet, or at least sending his eldest son there. If he does either, the French and Spaniards will find reason to repent their attack upon Portugal.

Believe me to be, my dear Wellesley,
Very sincerely yours,

HAWKESBURY.

[ENCLOSURE.]

List of Battalions under orders for Ireland.

2nd battalion	14th	..	..	..	..	776
"	38th	..	..	..	..	600
"	90th	..	..	..	..	688
"	5th	..	..	..	..	800
"	23rd	..	..	..	..	600
"	47th	..	..	..	..	600
"	48th	..	..	..	..	1000

5064

To this add, as soon as they can be collected, six battalions of the German Legion, making not much less than 5000.

[189.]

To Colonel Foster.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

Dublin Castle, 9th Nov., 1807.

As you informed me in your letter of the 1st that you did not propose to withdraw your recruiting parties from the counties into which you had sent them till you should hear farther from me, I have not been in a hurry to answer your letter.

I believe that the principle of the law is, that each regiment should enrol volunteers in the county to which it belongs; and my circular letter, therefore, which was written before I came over, and only signed by me in the ordinary course of business, is strictly conformable to the law.

But its object was to prevent some of the injurious effects of the high bounties, and the clashing of the recruiting parties with each other in counties to which their regiments did not belong.

It is obvious that this inconvenience cannot be justly complained of in the instance of a regiment which gives only a small bounty, as the Louth does; and therefore I have no objection to your stationing your recruiting parties where you please, notwithstanding the order in question.

I should withdraw or alter the order, only that I conceive that I should thereby authorise a practice which, however expedient, is not strictly legal. But if you should have any difficulty in keeping out your recruiting parties as now posted, in consequence of this order, we must alter it, whatever may be the result.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[190.]

To the Earl of Westmoreland.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 12th Nov., 1807.

I have received your letters respecting Lord ———. I can readily believe that his Lordship is not pleased with what has happened respecting the Bishopric of ———, and he may think that government have not used him well. But that is no reason why I should submit to his telling me in a letter that I reported falsehoods respecting his relation; and I don't see that the matter is much mended by his submitting to your opinion upon it. I have spoken to the Lord Lieutenant respect-

ing Lord ———. It appears that he had a communication with him; and that his Lordship did not express himself as at all displeased with any body excepting myself. The Duke is anxious to oblige Lord ———, and will certainly do something for his relation when he will have an opportunity. In the mean time, however, I must say that Lord ——— has no reason to complain of us, if the affair of the Bishopric, which stands upon its own grounds, is put out of the question. He has had more offices in ——— since the Duke of Richmond came here than he had had for thirteen years before. The patronage of the Post has been disposed of according to his recommendation, notwithstanding the claims which others have upon it; which claims must be attended to if government expect to have the support of more than one family in the south of Ireland. In regard to the other objects which you mentioned to me, I declare to you most solemnly that government have not had the disposal of even one office since the Duke came to Ireland, excepting the offices of clerks in the Account Office, worth 80*l.* per annum, which your friend would not take. In respect to Lady Strangford's pension, it must be deferred till other engagements made, not by us, but by the Ministers in England, will have been performed. The difficulties in which the present government were when they came into office, and the mode in which those difficulties were overcome, must be recollected; and it will then appear whether we have made exertions for its support, and the provision for friends, corresponding with our means.

I assure you that this government is in many respects in a very different situation from that in which it was when you conducted it. It has lost more than two-thirds of its patronage; and for reasons into which it is not now necessary to enter, to be attributed principally to the old connexions existing between persons in Ireland and the present Ministers, we cannot be supposed to have the free disposal of that which remains. I believe that scarcely a day passes that does not bring an application either to the Duke or me from some person high in office in England for office in Ireland for some friend; in addition to which, engagements have been made, and old promises formerly made, besides Union promises, are to be performed. If the Duke had any feeling respecting the patronage of the government excepting to dispose of it for the general good, he would

not like these applications and arrangements; but as it is, he only hopes that the Ministers will be convinced that he does the best he can for the friends of all.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[191.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 13th Nov., 1807.

We are making the Excise arrangements in this country, and I should be glad to have your opinion upon some points connected with them. The officers in the Excise are appointed by government, and hitherto they have been promoted by the Board of Excise. The new arrangement goes to give them larger salaries in lieu of fees, to class them in a better manner, and to settle the plan according to which they are to be promoted from one class to another. My opinion is, that in making this last arrangement as much as possible ought to be left in the hands of the government, and as little in the hands of the Commissioners of Excise, from a conviction that that which will be done by government (I don't mean ourselves, but any government) will be done from better and honester views to the public interest than that which will be done by the Board of Excise. We must recollect that the Board of Excise in Ireland is not composed as it is in England of gentlemen who make their business their principal employment, and who have, as well by law as by inclination, no concern in politics. The members of the Board of Excise here are, and must continue to be, men of consequence and power in the country; and we may rest assured that the patronage which we may throw into their hands by any new arrangement will be used not for the interest of the revenue, not to forward the views of government, but against the government and for their own personal objects. With this opinion my idea is that we should make the following arrangement for promotions in the Excise:— That every officer should serve a certain number of years in each rank before he can be promoted; that he must undergo an examination as to his fitness in each rank; that from those thus qualified by length of service and knowledge the Commissioners shall return to the Lord Lieutenant three names for promotion

upon each vacancy ; from which three names the Lord Lieutenant shall select the person to be appointed ; the names to be returned to be selected in rotation by the Commissioners, one to be named by each.

I think that something of the kind I have above described will answer better than to give the patronage to the Commissioners in rotation, according to the practice in England, or than to leave it to the majority of the Board, which will be tantamount to giving it to the first Commissioner.

Another point upon which I wish to have your opinion is whether in making this arrangement it is desirable to give up the patronage we have at present. For instance, there are in the Irish Excise four offices of Inspectors-General, worth from 500*l.* to 600*l.* per annum each ; and it has been proposed to me by Foster to abolish these four offices, and to add four to the Surveyors of Excise of the first class in the new arrangement. According to this plan government would lose the patronage of the four offices, and they would be thrown into the general promotion of the Excise ; but nothing would be gained in point of duty or saved in expense : for in either case they would perform the same duty and would receive the same emoluments. I am inclined to keep the Inspectors-General, because I feel every day the inconvenience which results from the great diminution of the patronage of this government. The Lord Lieutenant has not one-third of the patronage that he had formerly, and the demands upon it are greater than ever they were ; and supposing that was not the case, I don't think it desirable to establish the Excise upon such a plan as that it will not be in the power of government to promote a deserving officer without a violation of the rules according to which the ordinary promotion ought to be conducted.

You will observe that I differ from — in many parts of this arrangement ; but you must not expect that he will ever do anything which will increase the power or influence of the government in this country ; and my opinion is that the increase of our influence is a great object, and ought to be attended to whenever it can be done without injury to the public interests. I have to add that the late government intended to have retained the Inspectors-General.

I think that it would be desirable that you should speak to Lord Chatham about the state of the ordnance in Ireland. It

has been hinted to me that there are several deficiencies in that branch of our force ; particularly that we want two companies of artillery to complete our numbers. Lord Chatham has the account of the deficiencies ; and I think it better that you should not say that you have heard from me upon the subject.

We have better accounts from Tipperary ; and I think our patrols will answer.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[193.]

To Colonel Bagwell.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

Dublin Castle, 16th Nov., 1807.

I have received your letter of the 15th instant, and I am concerned that I should have expressed myself so ill as to give you reason to believe that the clause which had been inserted in the patent of Lord Drogheda and yourself could be omitted in that which is now to be granted to yourself and Lord Henry Moore. It is certainly true that when you spoke to me upon the subject in the House of Commons I was not acquainted with the circumstances of the case, and I told you that it did appear extraordinary, upon your representation of it, that the terms of the patent should have been altered ; but I desired to have time to obtain more information, and when I had obtained it, it was manifest to me that the clause which had been inserted could not be omitted.

I will not now enter into a consideration of all the circumstances which render this impossible ; the principal one is that it was intended by the Duke of Bedford to insert this clause, and that your immediate predecessors had, as I am informed, notice that it was his Grace's intention that they should not demand the fees which had been discontinued by the Earl of Hardwicke. The omission to insert the clause under these circumstances could have but one object, that of entitling you and Lord Henry Moore to compensation for fees, the receipt of which had been discontinued by an order from the two predecessors of the Duke of Richmond, and the act of his Grace's own government by inserting in the former patent a clause which deprived you of the right to demand them. In respect to the fees, I observe from a perusal of the papers which have been written upon this

subject, that the right to the receipt of them has been disputed by the officers of the army; and they would certainly continue their opposition to paying them. It may be said that the Muster Masters would enforce the payment by legal means; but I observe that they have omitted to enforce the payment of other fees and demands to which they are entitled; and it cannot be expected that they would commence a lawsuit for these, which two governments have forbid them to receive. Here then the question occurs again: Are we to give a right by patent which will never be asserted, and the consequence of which will obviously be to increase the amount of the compensation to be given to the holders of these offices if they should be abolished? Upon considering the whole of this case I could not advise the Lord Lieutenant to omit the insertion in the new patent of the clause which existed in that before granted, and accordingly it will pass in the same form as the last.

I have not adverted to the difficulty and delay which would take place in altering the patent at present, because the King's letter ordering the new patent has likewise been altered. It would be necessary to make application for a new King's letter, and to commence again the whole proceeding from the beginning.

Ever, my dear Colonel, yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To T. and W. Kemmis, Esqrs.

[193.]

GENTLEMEN,

Dublin Castle, 17th Nov., 1807.

I send you herewith, by command of the Lord-Lieutenant, a copy of His Majesty's letter of the 10th of January, 1766, in pursuance of which letters patent were passed granting the office of Printer-General of Ireland to Mr. Boulter Grierson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, for the term of forty years, which term expired on the * day of March, 1806; and his Grace desires you will lay the same in a proper manner before His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General, and signify his Grace's desire that they will prepare the draught of a proper letter for His Majesty's signature directing letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal of Ireland for granting the said

* Blank in manuscript.

office to Mr. Grierson, and his executors, administrators, and assigns, for the term of * years. But his Grace desires a clause may be inserted in the said letters patent, reserving to the Provost, Fellows, and Scholars of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth near Dublin a *concurrent right* of printing in Ireland Bibles in all sizes or volumes, Books of Common Prayer and Singing Psalms in all sizes or volumes, Psalters, Books of the New Testament in all sizes or volumes, Primers having the Catechism therein, and all other books which are or may be commanded by lawful authority to be used in divine service.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[194.]

To Lord Viscount Delvin.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 18th Nov., 1807.

I have received the honour of your Lordship's letter of the 10th instant, and having taken the earliest opportunity of communicating its contents to the Lord-Lieutenant, I am in reply directed to acquaint your Lordship that there is no half-pay or allowance of the nature to which you allude which can be granted to adjutants of militia upon their retiring; and his Grace commands me to express to your Lordship his concern that the limited patronage of government, and the number of applications that have been made to his Grace by many deserving individuals (of whose services his Grace has a personal knowledge), will not admit of any encouraging expectations being held out to your Lordship of any employment in the barrack or other departments for the adjutant of your regiment.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[195.]

To R. S. Tighe, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 19th Nov., 1807.

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 15th instant, and Lord Westmeath had given me the manuscript book

* Blank in manuscript.

on education, for which I am much obliged to you. It is a subject which deserves the most serious attention from every man who is anxious for the prosperity of this country, and it shall have all that it is in my power to give it.

As the question has been referred by the legislature to a Board,* consisting of gentlemen selected by the Lord-Lieutenant as being best qualified to consider and to suggest the means of carrying into execution the views which Parliament had when the law was passed under which that Board was constituted, it would not be proper that a person holding the office which I fill should interfere in it till the Board will have had an opportunity of making its report; but most particularly would it be improper that I should give opinions on questions which are to be brought under the consideration of the Board for their decision. Under these circumstances I feel a great disinclination to deliver an opinion even in this form to you, on the resolution which you have it in contemplation to propose to the Board. However, as you have desired it, I will tell you that in my opinion the great object of our policy in Ireland should be to endeavour to obliterate, as far as the law will allow us, the distinction between Protestants and Catholics, and that we ought to avoid anything which can induce either sect to recollect or believe that its interests are separate and distinct from those of the other. I would apply this principle to the education which you intend to propose to the Board. You are of opinion that the Board is so constituted as that it has not all the information which it is expedient it should have to consider of and determine on the system of education for a large portion of His Majesty's subjects; and yet it is composed of persons selected by the Lord-Lieutenant as the individuals most likely to determine on these subjects with advantage to the public. If the Board should think that the information and talents of other individuals are necessary to them, an opinion in which I cannot readily agree when I read the list of the names of the members of the Board of Education, I should prefer a resolution calling for the assistance of such individuals by name rather than one calling for their assistance because they belonged to any particular party or religious sect.

* The Board of Education consisted of the Lord Primate, the Archbishop of Dublin, the Right Honourable Isaac Corry, the Provost of Trinity College, the Dean of St. Patrick, the Rev. J. Whitelaw, Henry Grattan, W. Parnell, R. S. Tighe, R. Lovell Edgeworth, and W. Disney.

Having given you my opinion on this subject, I have to request that you will act accordingly or not as you may deem most advisable, and will consider it only as the opinion of an individual who entertains the most anxious good wishes for the successful result of the labours of the Board of which you are a member.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

R. Stearne Tighe, Esq., to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

SIR,

Mitchelstown, 15th Nov., 1807.

Mr. Corneille, the Secretary to the Board of Education, having intimated to me that you wished to see a copy of a report on that subject by a former Board, I took the liberty of sending it to you by Lord Westmeath, and I hope it has been received. I venture now to trespass upon you with a letter on a subject which I am rejoiced to find has called your attention, and which I believe to be of infinite importance to this country. I am very far from wishing you to suppose that I am peculiarly anxious to render my countrymen more enlightened, more moral, or more religious than the common run of people with which this world is inhabited. I am very much inclined to think that the morality and religion of the people will be more effectually established by domestic than by public exertions. If the government takes care not to deprave the people by a depraved or corrupt administration of the laws, it will do pretty nearly all that can be required in common and ordinary cases. But the circumstances of Ireland are indisputably very peculiar; and so long as either from the wisdom or the folly of statesmen, or from the views of party, it shall be thought right to preserve a system under which the pastors of four-fifths of our population are in a measure forced to earn their daily bread by counteracting even the beneficial influence of the State over so important a portion of its subjects, it does appear to me to be politically necessary to interfere in the education of the people so far as can be done without exciting or inflaming jealousies or mistrusts, and with the double view of guarding against mischievous instruction, and of affording to the lower classes of the people some aid in the education of their children. It appears to me that the Board of Education, first established in 1788, and revived during the late administration, may, with the cordial support and under the direction of government, be made an useful instrument for such a purpose. You will find by a reference to the act of the legislature by which the Board was constituted, that among other matters it was specially given in charge to them "to report upon the most effectual means of extending the benefits of education to all classes of His Majesty's subjects in this kingdom." If you have leisure to examine the parochial reports to the Board upon the state of parish schools in this kingdom, I think you will perceive that whilst, at a vast expense and with an annual display of zeal for the Protestant religion, we were collecting the children of vagabond Roman Catholics, or the deserted bastards of Protestants, into what were called the Protestant Charter schools, the children of our labouring Protestant population in many parts of Ireland were, as they still are, instructed

in Roman Catholic seminaries, because none that were Protestant were to be found. I beg here to observe that I do not mean to throw any reflection upon the Protestant Charter schools as they are now governed; on the contrary, I do believe that they are now and for some time have been so managed as to be a credit to the country, as well as to those who superintend them. Perhaps some alterations might tend to remove the jealousies excited by their name and by the wording of the charter of their incorporation; but so far as the managing committee is concerned, I believe there cannot be a doubt that they are judiciously and economically administered with reference to the plan previously chalked out. But I also believe that neither this nor any other plan of a similar nature or similar expense can possibly meet the evils of a political nature to be found in the present state of the education of the lower classes of our people. The Protestant Charter schools do not prevent the regular absorption of our Protestant population in Roman Catholic seminaries; no institution or regulation now in existence that I know of, tends in the least to counteract the mischief which may result from the total absence of control or superintendence over the schools of a country in which such divisions subsist. We know that the catechism of the Protestant Charter schools dwells upon the cruelties and enormities of the Roman Catholics in a manner calculated to inflame minds and excite animosities. I am happy to find that the present committee of fifteen, with that meritorious attention to their duty which has marked their conduct in the government of these schools, have turned their thoughts to a matter which has long called for correction. Let us here, Sir, lay aside every view of the subject connected either with religion or with morals, and, considering policy alone, let me ask, would it not have been considered as downright insanity to have dispersed through the Roman Catholic schools books calculated to inflame and irritate their minds against their Protestant fellow-subjects? and is it not next to insanity to tolerate such, when we know the manner in which the schools where our peasants are taught are supplied with books, how those schools are established and governed, or rather not governed? is it not evident that any mischief may be instilled into the rising generation, and that much is? I can assure you, Sir, that I have myself taken books out of the hands of boys in such schools, filled with narratives of the cruelties committed by the English on the Irish, and with details of the barbarities of the Protestants. If mischievous books are ever disseminated for treasonable purposes, if ever a party-spirit, or any inflamed state of the passions, or a peculiar state of dissension between the Protestants or Roman Catholics prevails in any district, books analogous to such a state of the mind are more or less to be found there, and even after the passions have subsided those books are sent with the children to school, often for want of better. I have found them in schools where I could not attach the slightest degree of suspicion of ill-intention to either the schoolmaster or the parish priest; but what an engine may such schools be in the hands of persons that are ill-intentioned! I submit my opinion to your better judgment; but that opinion is, that not a school should be held in any parish in the kingdom that was not in some degree under the control of the magistracy of the country; but this regulation should not be one of mistrust or hostility to those who were to be the objects of it: it should form part of a system bearing evident marks of

a benevolent wish on the part of government to aid the peasantry of the country in the education of their children, which has ever been an object of peculiar interest to the Irish peasant ; and in framing this system I would take the Roman Catholic priest and schoolmaster along with me in every step : instead of appearing desirous of lessening their influence, I would assist and increase it, but I would take care to give it a beneficial direction. Control should go hand in hand with benefit. I think that the establishment of parish schools, which the law has already directed, should be enforced, that the Protestant peasantry may not be reduced to the necessity of sending their children to Roman Catholic schools ; and I think a school for Roman Catholics, avowedly under the guidance of the parish priest, but also under the control of the magistracy, might be established with a prospect of much good, in every parish at the public expense, or in part at the public expense. I think that this would lay a just and popular ground for interference in all other schools, so as to render the licence of magistrates necessary to the opening of such schools, and also to prevent any books being used except such as were approved by the licensing magistrates, at the recommendation of the Protestant or Roman Catholic minister of the parish. The establishment of these schools might be gradual, as the wants of the parishes seemed to call for them. The expense ought to be defrayed by the landed interest, by grand jury or parochial assessment. I do believe that the tax would be as popular as any tax can be among the lower classes of the landholders ; and I also believe that the funds might be nearly obtained from a little more attention to the present system of grand jury taxation, without increasing the present amount of local burthens. Having thus stated my conviction of the necessity of paying attention in a political point of view to the education of our peasantry, and the grounds on which that conviction is founded, I beg leave to add that at the last meeting of the Board of Education I took the liberty of submitting to the Board, for its consideration and decision on a future day, a motion which I felt myself called upon to make, with a view to enable me as a member of the Board to concur in carrying into effect that most important part of our duty, namely, "reporting upon the most effectual means of extending the benefits of education to the lower classes of the King's subjects in Ireland." I take the liberty of sending you a copy of that motion, observing at the same time that I stated to the Board that I should alter or totally withdraw it according to the sense of the Board ; and I also expressed my wish that the opinion of government should if possible be previously ascertained, as I should be very sorry to bring to a vote in the Board any measure which if there carried might not have the full concurrence of His Majesty's ministers here. I now, Sir, take the liberty of submitting to your consideration the principle on which this motion had been framed : you will be the best judge of the advantages or disadvantages that may probably attend carrying it into effect ; to me it appears wise and conciliatory, and tending to good. I do think that the Board of Education must either openly or tacitly admit that to be impracticable which the legislature peculiarly recommended to its care, or in some form or other the spirit of my motion must be adopted. I, as an individual member of the Board, have no hesitation in stating my utter incompetency even to think of educating the Roman Catholic peasantry of this country except in cordial concurrence and co-operation with the

Roman Catholic clergy, and I think that concurrence would be more effectually and usefully obtained in the manner suggested in my motion than by any other. My reason for bringing forward such a motion at this moment was the consideration that those objects of the Board's attention which seemed to be exclusively Protestant would in all probability be gone through early in next year, and therefore I thought if the measure to which the motion alludes should be approved, it would be necessary to have the Act of Parliament under which the Board is constituted so amended this session as to allow His Grace the Lord Lieutenant to carry it into effect.

I have trespassed upon your time, and I fear upon your patience, more than I had intended, but I have long considered the subject as one of peculiar importance to Ireland, and I have been led away by it. I have been also led on by a sincere conviction that you personally, as well as all your more immediate connections, have a sincere desire to do whatever can be done to promote the interest of Ireland: with this conviction I may perhaps again trouble you on some other points which stare me hourly and broadly in the face as objects of great magnitude and importance to us, though they never seem to have occurred to any of our numerous successive governments here. When you are tired of me or my opinions, I shall be obliged to you to stop me.

I am, Sir, with sincere respect and esteem,

Your obedient humble Servant,

R. S. TIGHE.

[ENCLOSURE.]

This Board, conceiving that the most important object of its institution, "The pointing out the means of extending the benefits of Education to the lower classes of His Majesty's subjects in Ireland," would be more effectually attained by the co-operation of respectable persons, as well of the clergy as of the laity of their Roman Catholic fellow-subjects, and feeling assured that many of that description have every disposition to promote the beneficent views of government in a matter of such importance to the welfare of this country,

Resolved, That His Grace the Lord Primate, as President of this Board, be requested to communicate these sentiments to His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, with an assurance of the satisfaction this Board would derive from being enabled, by such an addition to its members, to mature and present to the consideration of government such measures as may tend equally and effectually to the instruction and the happiness of all the lower classes of His Majesty's subjects in Ireland, and thereby essentially promote the security and prosperity of the empire at large.

To Lord Manners.

[196.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 19th Nov., 1807.

The bad state of the health of Sir James Stewart, and the consequent probability of an early vacancy in the representation of the county of Donegal, induce me to look with some anxiety

to that quarter, and to trouble you with a few lines upon the state of politics in that county. The great interests there are Lord Abercorn's and Lord Conyngham's; but as the estate of the former has been out of lease, and the latter has attended particularly to the registry of freeholders, I apprehend that his is the stronger. I understand from Lord Castlereagh that Lord Conyngham had authorized him to offer Lord Abercorn the support of his interest in the county of Donegal for Lord Hamilton, and I think it probable that if, upon the vacancy which I expect will be made by Sir James Stewart's death, Lord Abercorn should be disposed to accept this support, Lord Conyngham would still be disposed to give it to Lord Hamilton, notwithstanding that he was not pleased with the encouragement given to Captain Gardiner in opposition to his friend in the county at the last general election.

I acknowledge that I am very anxious that these two great interests should draw together in the county of Donegal, as much because it will tend to the ease of Lord Abercorn and the peace of that part of the country, as because it will be highly advantageous to the present government. Lord Conyngham now supports us; but I found it very difficult to persuade him to give his proxy to Lord Hawkesbury, and to urge his friend Mr. Brooke to attend in the House of Commons. I am much afraid that we shall lose his support unless Lord Abercorn will accept his assistance in the county of Donegal, and will allow him to have the disposal of such a portion of the patronage of the county as he shall think his situation and influence in the county will entitle him to.

I feel great difficulty in writing to Lord Abercorn upon this subject, because it relates to family concerns rather than public objects, and because I am apprehensive that he may imagine that the Duke is inclined not to afford him all the support which government can give to his influence in the county of Donegal. I therefore trouble you, and request you will endeavour to obtain a knowledge of Lord Abercorn's sentiments, and, if you should deem it expedient, to let him know what I have above written to you. I beg you at the same time to state that, however desirous the Duke may be to secure the support of Lord Conyngham, and however certain that it would be secured by the measures to which I have above referred, nothing should induce him to enter upon them in any manner or at any time

with Lord Conyngham, excepting with the full consent and approbation of Lord Abercorn. I hope that you will excuse the trouble I give you and the liberty I take in writing to you upon this subject, and that you will believe me

Your most faithful and obedient servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Will you be so kind as to send me any notes the Chief Baron may have given you on Maynooth College?

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

[197.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 19th Nov., 1807.

I am much concerned that I had not the pleasure of seeing you when you were in Dublin, and I have to apologise for having so long omitted to answer your letter. But the subject to which it relates has had my most serious attention, and I have corresponded upon it with the King's ministers in England.

I think that the eagerness with which the gentry of Ireland were urged to discuss the subject of tithes has remitted in some degree, and they appear to be aware of the danger of such discussions to their own properties. They have seen that it required but little exertion to turn them against what may with justice be called the exaction of high rents, and that such discussions, however injurious they might be to the peace of the country, and whatever loss of lives they might occasion on gibbets or in the field, would have no immediate effect on the administration of the day. I am convinced that we ought to endeavour to bring forward a good case for the clergy, compiled from the most authentic materials; but it must be expected that our inquiries upon this subject, although conducted with the utmost caution, will excite the fears of the friends and the hopes of the enemies of the Church, and will revive a spirit of discussion on it in the country which can tend only to the disturbance of the public peace. Under these circumstances I have not thought it advisable to proceed in my inquiries without consulting the ministers in England, who, after all, must be the people to discuss the question in Parliament, and must know best what materials and information they require.

I agree with you respecting the power which the canon law

gives to the Bishops ; but the question is, what power the canon law has in this kingdom. I apprehend that if it have that of producing the benefits for which we all wish, it is by a process so tedious and expensive, that neither the life nor the fortune of any Bishop could be expected to hold out to its termination.

We must, therefore, endeavour to pass a law which will provide a remedy against non-residence, which will be obtained with more ease and at less expense than those provided by the canon law.

I will take care that there shall be a clause in the Post Office Act giving the Bishops the privilege of franking letters written on the business of the diocese.

Ever, my dear Lord,

Your most faithful and obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[198.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 21st Nov., 1807.

I send you a piece of information which was got last night, and I must tell you that I have received intelligence to the same purport from another quarter this day. The disaffected in this city are much elated in consequence of some intelligence which they have received within these very few days ; and my intelligencer says that they certainly expect invasion from Portugal.

I am sorry to tell you that we lost two vessels in the bay of Dublin on the night before last, which had nearly 300 men on board belonging to the 97th and other regiments, and all perished excepting two soldiers and the crew of one of the vessels. I am afraid that other vessels were likewise wrecked at the same time.

Nothing new from the south.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[ENCLOSURE.]

Information received this evening from a very intelligent Priest.

Dublin Castle, 20th Nov., 1807.

The disaffected expect that this country will be invaded from three different ports, Ferrol, Lisbon, and Cadiz, and that the expedition from Ferrol

will sail first. This expectation he believes to be founded on information, but he would not tell me his authority, declaring he had always stipulated that he should not mention names unless he judged it necessary for the public safety, and then he would freely. Letters have been recently received from France *via* Lisbon. He has not seen them, but expects to do so soon.

Nothing is going on at present in Dublin, nor in the counties of Kildare or Wicklow. Nothing will be attempted till the French arrive. The lower orders of Catholics almost universally disaffected, the better sort neutral, and will side with the strongest, allowing for individual exceptions.

No collection of arms or ammunition. No pikes making. They trust to the French for arms. A fund of about 7000*l.* had been collected by the party in Dublin, but has been lately lost by the failure of Keeling, a Roman Catholic schoolmaster at Drogheda.

He believes no emissary has come from France; but Pat. Traynor, who came about four months ago, remained some time in the Bog of Allen with or near one Dourly, and went to Wicklow. My informant traced him in Bog of Allen, and from thence into Wicklow, and there lost sight of him, but he is probably still in the country.

The invasion is expected before Christmas. He suggested the expediency of desiring Dr. Troy and the other Roman Catholic bishops to send good preachers through their respective dioceses to exhort the people to obedience and tranquillity.

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

[199.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 25th Nov., 1807.

I return many thanks for your letter of the 23rd, which I received this morning. I agree in opinion with you respecting the propriety of making the inquiries which you have suggested; but my colleagues and superiors in office, who must be supposed to be the best judges of the information which they will require in order to conduct a discussion in the House of Commons, are of a different opinion; and therefore I have not called for the information which, according to your opinion and mine, we want, and could have without difficulty or inconvenience. But probably you might be able to prevail upon some of the Bishops, particularly in the south and in Connaught, to get this information; and I could bring it forward when it would be necessary. I believe we agree upon the other point also. I want to see in the hands of the Bishops an efficient power to enforce the residence of the clergy, and so do you. The question is, in what manner we shall give them this power; and I am induced to believe that the best mode of giving it, the mode to which Parliament would most readily agree, would be by an Act similar to that called Sir William Scott's, without the exceptions.

I thank you for Lord Headfort's paper. I had heard of its want of success.

Ever, my dear Lord, your most obedient
and faithful servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[200.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 25th Nov., 1807.

I enclose a memorandum* of the points to which I propose that the Visitors† of the College should direct their inquiries in their visitation, and a draft of the letter which I propose to write to them upon this subject. Let me know whether you approve of these papers.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[DRAFT OF LETTER.]

To the Lord Chancellor, Lord Chief Justice King's Bench, Lord Chief Justice Common Pleas, Lord Chief Baron, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Visitors of the College of Maynooth.

MY LORDS AND SIR,

His Grace the Lord-Lieutenant, having adverted to the discussions which took place in the late session of parliament relative to an increase of the grant which had been usually made to the College of Maynooth, is desirous of ascertaining the grounds on which this additional grant has been asked, and whether it ought to be continued; and his Grace has therefore commanded me to desire that you will take an early opportunity of visiting the College, and to enclose a memorandum of the points to which his Grace requests that you will direct your inquiries with a view to ascertain whether it would be expedient to recommend to parliament the continuance of the increased grant to this institution.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* See pp. 285-295.

† The Visitors of the College were the Lord Chancellor; the Chief Justices of the King's Bench and of the Common Pleas; the Chief Baron and the Chancellor of the Exchequer; the Earl of Fingall (a Roman Catholic Peer); and the Most Reverend Drs. O'Reilly and Troy, Roman Catholic Bishops. The Trustees were seventeen in number, and comprised Irish Peers, Baronets, Bishops, and gentry, all of the Roman Catholic persuasion.

The Right Hon. Spencer Perceval to Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Downing Street, 15th Dec., 1807.

I have received from you Sir Arthur Wellesley's letter, with a draft of the heads of inquiry proposed to be submitted to the Chief Justices, Chief Baron, Chancellor, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, as those to which their attention should be directed on their intended visitation of the College of Maynooth.

I confess for my own part I cannot derive any very comfortable expectation from the inquiry. The only persons to whom we can look for any information must, I fear, necessarily be those whose bias cannot fail to be, fairly and naturally, so much in favour of the College, that it can hardly be expected that they will be prevailed upon to state anything to its prejudice; and as my objection to the increased allowance proceeds upon principles which, if I did not think Parliament pledged to the support of the institution by the Union, and by the conduct of the Irish Parliament antecedent to the Union, would lead me to refuse to support it at all, I am afraid that any inquiry which seems to assume the increase to be proper, unless the result of the inquiry should be unfavourable, must necessarily present the demand in a point of view more favourable to it than if it was resisted rather upon the broad principle than upon any particular examination in detail.

My objection to maintain and educate 400 students for Roman Catholic priests' orders is not to be overcome by any representation of what the Roman Catholics may think to be the demand of the country for so large a supply. There is nothing can reconcile me to such a proceeding: it is to all intents and purposes establishing the Roman Catholic religion in Ireland, and going very far to perpetuate it. I am afraid, however, from what passed in the House of Commons last session (on which occasion I yielded, perhaps improperly, to the objections felt by others to resisting the enlarged grant at that time) that some inquiry must be made; and, under this impression, I will state what occurs to me upon the proposed proceeding.

If I did not suppose that the Irish lawyers had been consulted upon the point, I should doubt the legality of the proposed form of calling a selection of the trustees together. The Act of the 40 Geo. III., cap. 85, indeed, empowers the Lord-Lieutenant by his warrant, or order under his hand, to authorize a special visitation by any three of the visitors; but I doubt whether, under that clause, any three or more of the visitors may be selected by the Lord-Lieutenant, or whether it means anything further than that, on a special visitation, supposing all the visitors to have notice and power to attend, any three may be competent to act. I think this point at least so doubtful, that the Irish government should have legal advice upon it before they proceed to act upon the assumption that they have authority to select the visitors. Besides, if this is intended to be a visitation under the Act, I conceive it should not be called by the Secretary's letter, but by the Lord-Lieutenant's warrant. This, however, is mere form. I should much wish also that, previous to any formal inquiry, or even any formal letter being written to the visitors, some private inquiries should be made, the result of which would best suggest the questions most fit to be put.

The persons in Ireland who have most experience on the subject should be consulted. The Chancellor should be desired to inquire of the Chief Justices and Chief Baron, as well as of the Attorney and Solicitor General. I should think also that some of the Bishops might well be desired to give their suggestions, and from the particular knowledge which I have of the Bishop of Meath, I should be very anxious that he should be asked whether there is any question or head of inquiry which he could point out as likely to be of use. For myself, I much distrust my own suggestions; but I think the inquiry ought to be so conducted as to produce a full statement and disclosure of the institution in all its parts. What are its bye-laws, as well respecting ecclesiastical matters as those of mere discipline? Not for the purpose of altering any such regulations, but that they should be known. The state of the College at the present time? Whether the time of the professors is wholly employed within the College, or how much of it they dedicate to private tutorage, or to the lay College?

When they have been respectively appointed? The numbers that have been educated? An account from the first foundation of the numbers admitted into the College? The dates of their admission and departure? Their ages at the time of admission? The number there now? From what classes of society they have been taken? By whom recommended and by whom appointed? Whether the College bears the whole expense of their education, or whether their friends in any and what degree contribute?

What vacations they have? How far they are totally immured within the College during the time of their stay there, or how much they are at liberty to mix with society out of it?

What is the course of their studies? What books they are made to read? What books of religious instruction they are taught from, and especially what books in the nature of catechisms, comprehending the articles of their religion, they are required to learn and read?

And then, beyond these points, to inquire as to the opinion of these selected visitors, particularly what they would suggest with respect to the propriety of introducing the authority of government into the appointment of the professors, &c.?

After all I fear, as I said at first, there will not much benefit result from the inquiry; but if we can produce a true representation and exposure of the College, Parliament will be better able to judge of the propriety of its extension.

In the introductory letter to the visitors I have only suggested one alteration, and have nothing to object to the circular letter to our Bishops, for the purpose, I suppose, of comparing the numbers actually wanted by our own Church with the numbers which the Roman Catholics wish to supply for theirs.

I am, my dear Lord, yours most truly,

S. PERCEVAL.

To J. Pollock, Esq.

[201.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 25th Nov., 1807.

I am much obliged to you for your note of yesterday.

I think that you are mistaken respecting the extent of the cause for alarm about the state of the harvest. I have the best information upon that subject, and I believe that, although this will be a dear year, there will be nothing like a scarcity. Any interference on the part of government at the present moment would create or rather increase the alarm and augment the already enormous prices, and therefore it is best we should do nothing. The high prices of the few last days have been owing to the impediments to the communication occasioned by the snow.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

J. Pollock, Esq., to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR,

Mountjoy-square, 24th Nov., 1807.

In my judgment the whole of the potato crop will be destroyed, and within a few weeks corn will get beyond the reach of the great bulk of the people, and a famine will actually exist. Under these circumstances permit me to suggest to you that two or three hundred thousand pounds instantly, and before the corn rises in price, laid out in the purchase of the large haggards in Leinster would enable government to sell out, when the scarcity comes on, at the present price of 17s. 9d. per barrel, or whatever it may be, so as that the public would not lose a shilling in the end. A large importation of rice from England would also be necessary, and would bear its own expense.

You are perfectly aware of the powerful necessity of keeping Leinster quiet. Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, and the county of Dublin must command the city. If the population of these counties should approach to starvation, the consequences may be dismal indeed.

I am persuaded you will forgive this trespass from the motive which suggests it. If you should think the subject of as much consequence as it appears to me, I could, I think, suggest an outline of the detail of managing the corn in the country that would be of use in working the plan.

I am ever, my dear Sir,

Your most obliged and devoted servant,

J. POLLOCK.

[202.]

To Brigade-Major Harding.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 25th Nov., 1807.

I have received your letter of the 18th instant, in which you have adverted to the outrages which have been lately committed on Sir Henry Holmes' estate, of which you state that the former tenants are suspected. I recommend that the persons suspected should be taken up and examined, and particularly that they should be shown to those who were on the lands of Killaculla at the time the outrages were committed.

I have suggested to the Commander of the Forces to post some troops at Glyn, according to your recommendation.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[203.]

To Lord Norbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 25th Nov., 1807.

I return Mr. Forth's letter, from which I observe that he refuses to retire. However, if the purport of this letter had been to convey his consent rather than his refusal to retire, I could not have engaged to give the office to any body till it would have become vacant. I should be very happy to attend to your recommendation and wishes, and to do anything which should be agreeable to the gentlemen of the county of Meath, particularly that which is in itself so proper as to promote the views of Mr. Meredith, of whom I hear a deserving character; but we must avoid embarrassing the King's government by engagements which we have not the prospect of being able to perform, and which would only tend to deprive us of our good name without being of service to anybody.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[204.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 26th Nov., 1807.

I enclose you a letter which I have received from the Mayor of Cork, to which I beg to draw your attention.

There is no doubt whatever that there is some foundation for the apprehensions of the Mayor, and I have received intimation of the existence of similar apprehensions in other parts of Ireland. The potato harvest has not been productive; a large proportion of it, some say one-third, is still in the ground. The frost has set in already, and there is reason to apprehend that the whole of what is in the ground will be destroyed. Potatoes which sell usually for five pence a stone, sold last week for ten pence; and within these two or three last days, since the communication with the country has been more difficult on account of the fall of snow, for fourteen pence in Dublin market.

The oat harvest, which would be the substitute for potatoes, has, I understand, been abundant in Ireland, although it has failed in some parts; and Mr. Foster has assured me that, notwithstanding the deficiency of the potato crop, oats would not have brought a price if it had not been for the deficiency of the crops in, and exportation to, Scotland; and I understand, and indeed the present price throughout Ireland, which is about one-third or one-fourth higher than the ordinary price, shows, that oats are not scarce.

Meat in Ireland is now cheaper than it was ever known to be, and 25 per cent. below the price of ordinary years. This is partly owing to the deficiency of the hay harvest, and partly to the speculations of the graziers.

Adverting to the principles established by the Corn Inter-course Bill of the session of 1806, I wish you to let me have your opinion whether, if our apprehensions of the entire failure of the potato crop should turn out well founded, I shall stop the exportation of oats by an embargo.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I had some thoughts of stopping the distilleries in Ireland, which, with the rise of price there, would have had the desired effect if the crops had not failed in Scotland. But as long as the deficiency will exist there, no rise of price here will have the wished-for effect.

Lord Hawkesbury to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR WELLESLEY,

Whitehall, 30th Nov., 1807.

I received yesterday your letter of the 26th instant, and have lost no time in communicating on the subject of it with Perceval, Rose, and Dundas. We all feel the extreme delicacy of the measures you suggest, particularly that of stopping the exportation to Scotland, which would be contrary to all the principles on which it is desirable that the Corn-Laws of the United Kingdom should stand. The harvest in Scotland has certainly been very deficient, but, on the other hand, it has been most abundant throughout England, and the prices of grain in the London market (particularly of wheat) are lower than they ought to be for the fair encouragement of the farmer. Bread is now cheaper in London than it has been at any time since the year 1799. Under these circumstances, with a free exportation, there is every reason to hope that the prices of grain, at least throughout the United Kingdom, will find their level; and that, if the potato crop in Ireland should prove as short as is apprehended, a supply of corn will be furnished to you from this country. At all events it would be very inexpedient to take any measures on the part of government on such a subject without further inquiry, and without being more convinced than we can be at present of the absolute necessity of the measures. I have had formerly as chairman of the Corn Committee in the House of Commons some experience on subjects of this nature, and I feel very strongly the difficulties which arise from any interference of government in the corn trade. When once they begin, the ordinary course of the trade is deranged, and they never know where they can or ought to stop. Such interference may, however, I admit, be necessary, but it should not be resorted to whilst there exist any hopes of avoiding it. I wish, therefore, for the present, that you would continue to inform us regularly of the progress of the prices of the different articles of provisions, and if the evil should increase, of any suggestions which may be made to you for the remedy of it. It is a subject on which Foster is particularly well informed, and can give you very effectual assistance.

Believe me to be, my dear Wellesley,

Very sincerely yours,

HAWKESBURY.

[205.]

To the Lord Primate.

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 30th Nov., 1807.

It being extremely important to obtain a particular account of the several institutions actually existing in this part of the United Kingdom for the purposes of education, I am commanded by the Lord-Lieutenant to request that your Grace

will procure from the rector, vicar, or other officiating clergyman in each parish or union within your Grace's diocese, a return of the number of unendowed or mere private schools within such parish or union, specifying in each the master's name, whether a Protestant or a Roman Catholic, the course of instruction, the number of Protestant and of Catholic, of male and of female scholars, with the totals.

In order to obtain these returns with the greater uniformity and accuracy, I have the honour to enclose a sufficient number of blank forms according to which his Grace requests the returns may be made.

If your Grace will take the trouble to desire the clergy of your diocese to enclose their returns for your Grace addressed to me at Dublin Castle, they will be immediately forwarded to you free of postage.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

P.S. If your Grace will also have the goodness to send to this office your letters to your clergy containing the form of the returns, they will be forwarded according to their address free of postage.

To the Earl of Harrington.

[206.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Moore Abbey, 1st Dec., 1807.

I enclose a paper, which contains the result of a very anxious consideration which I have given to the state of our (Ireland) defence, if the enemy should now attack us; and I submit it to you not because I am of opinion, even at present, that it proposes the best system that we can adopt, but because it will bring under your view the different points to which, if we should be attacked, we must attend, and will afford you a convenient mode of considering and deciding upon them. I am by no means wedded to my opinions; indeed I am not quite certain, that if I had the power, I should act in the manner proposed in the enclosed paper; and I am convinced it must be altered according to any change in the supposed mode of attack by the enemy. I beg, therefore, that it may be considered only as a sketch for

others to work upon and make perfect, and by no means as a decided system to be adopted.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

MEMORANDUM.*

If Ireland should be invaded at the present moment, the object of the enemy will be a revolution, and the establishment of a new government in the country. His operations with a view to attain this object will be directed upon Dublin, and will be performed by more than one corps. It is possible that two or more divisions will sail from different ports in the south of Europe, each having allotted to it a certain portion of the coast on which to make its attack. The landing being once effected, the operations of each of these corps will be either combined, or conducted independently of those of the others, according to the degree of opposition which we may be able to give them.

The enemy will expect reinforcements and supplies of provisions, &c., from the disaffected in Ireland, for whose use he will bring arms, ordnance, and ammunition; and he must make up his mind to the loss of his communication with France for every purpose excepting that of intelligence.

The probable landing places are Galway Bay; in St. George's Channel, possibly Waterford; in the neighbourhood of Cork and the Shannon. Bantry Bay is not a likely place at this season of the year. It is too distant from Dublin, and the enemy would find it difficult to make his march from thence.

In the existing state of the enemy's naval force, I consider it nearly impossible that he should land anything to the northward; and, therefore, the disposition of our force will be formed with a view to operations against a corps attacking from the side of Galway, and three corps at Cork, Waterford, and in the Shannon. We must also recollect that Dublin will be the enemy's ultimate object; and in point of fact, we shall lose nothing of importance to us in Ireland if we can retain possession of that city and the anchorage in Cork Harbour.

* It is supposed that this is the Paper referred to.

With a view to these operations, I should propose that the disposition of the army should be as follows:—

First. A corps consisting of the troops cantoned in the north of Ireland, in Connaught and the neighbourhood of the Upper Shannon, as far down as Birr, to be collected to oppose the enemy who land in Galway Bay.

Secondly. One corps, consisting of the troops cantoned in Tipperary, Waterford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Limerick, Cork, and Kerry, to oppose the enemy who will land to the southward of the Shannon, or at Waterford.

Thirdly. A corps consisting of the troops cantoned at and in the neighbourhood of Cork Harbour, for the peculiar defence of Cork and the harbour.

Fourthly. A corps consisting of the troops cantoned in Dublin and the neighbourhood of Dublin, and some from the north, to be assembled for the immediate defence of the city in case the enemy should either come higher up St. George's Channel than Waterford, or one of his corps should be able to effect its march upon Dublin, notwithstanding the opposition which will be given to him. Each of these corps should have with it a sufficient quantity of ammunition and artillery, and all the stores in reserve of every description should move with them; those for which there is not carriage should be sent to Dublin upon the first alarm, as it may be depended upon that, when this invasion will take place, no position will be safe excepting where the troops will be. The muskets in the different depôts in the country should be moved to Dublin without loss of time, as well as the unappropriated six pounders, howitzers, and their carriages. Indeed, excepting in positions where the use of them may be required, it does not appear to be expedient to leave ordnance and stores, excepting powder, and ordnance and musket ammunition, and intrenching tools, in any part of Ireland excepting in Dublin.

Adverting to the manner in which the army is at present disposed, these four corps might be composed as stated in the annexed paper.

The first ought to be collected in the neighbourhood of Galway, the second at Cashel, the third at Cork, the fourth in Dublin. I have fixed upon Galway for the position of the first because the plan of operations to be adopted should be to

attack the enemy at the earliest period after he will have landed. It is not very probable that he will be in a state to take advantage of any success he might have in an action which might be fought at any early period after his appearance in Galway Bay ; and he ought to be attacked, and his communication with the country impeded, as much as possible. If, after the enemy will have disembarked entirely, this first corps should not be in a state or of such strength as to oppose him in the field, it will fall back upon the Shannon.

In this season of the year it is probable that that river will not be fordable, at least below Lanesborough. The bridges, therefore, should be broken, and the operations of the first corps should be directed to defend the passage of the Shannon.

This is the general course which I should recommend for this corps, but it is possible that it would be desirable, on account of immediate danger threatening Dublin, from which the force collected there could not be deemed equal to protect it, to move the whole or a part of this corps to that city. If this should be the case, the 1st corps should be broken up, and the enemy must be left to carry on his operations in Connaught opposed only by such a body as it may be convenient to leave there ; for the protection and security of Dublin must be considered the first object of all our operations.

Adverting to the length of time which must elapse before this 1st corps can be collected, it might possibly be deemed desirable to adopt the following plan of operations for it :—

Assemble near Galway the German cavalry, the troops from Athlone, Galway, Castlebar, Tuam, Ballinasloe, Tullamore, Birr, and Ballina, and let their operations be directed to confine the enemy, and to interrupt his communication with the country, unless his strength should be so small as to enable them to attack him ; collect the remainder of the corps behind the Shannon, between Lough Rea and Lough Derg, and this part of the corps might then either move into Connaught to attack the enemy, or join the 2nd corps, as might appear most advisable.

I have fixed upon Cashel as the position for the 2nd corps, as being the central point between Limerick, Waterford, and Cork, and of the line of cantonments extending from the Shannon to the Barrow. The object of this corps would be to attend to the operations of the enemy's corps which would land

at Waterford, in the Shannon, or at Cork. The landing which might be made at Waterford would be the most dangerous for Dublin, and ought to be the first attended to. It is not probable that this attack would be made by a very large corps, as the navigation of a large fleet in St. George's Channel would be difficult and hazardous. The early operations of this body of the enemy would deserve attention, as well because of its neighbourhood to Dublin, as of its position between the corps at Cashel and the capital, and of the advantages which it will have in the possession of the navigation of the Barrow.

The first object for the operations of this corps should be to make an early attack upon the enemy wherever he will land, and to repeat the attack as frequently as possible; the next to gain possession of the two banks of the Barrow, and to oblige the enemy to make his march by the coast.

If this 2nd corps should not be able to defeat or even cripple the enemy's corps, which will land at Waterford, so much as to make it no longer an object of apprehension to Dublin, it must fall back upon that city, and in that case, more particularly if another of the enemy's corps should be landed in the Shannon, the 1st corps must be called out of Connaught, and a large collection of troops must be made to cover the capital.

If the 2nd corps should be obliged to retire, it ought to preserve its communication with the Barrow. The 1st corps can march from Galway to the Shannon, at Banagher, in two marches without difficulty; and from thence to the Barrow, at Monasterevan, by Portarlinton, is thirty-three miles, and to Athy two miles further. From Waterford to Carlow is thirty-eight miles, and thence to Athy about twelve; so that the difference of the distance is not great, and it could be only necessary to take care to give early intimation of the necessity for the junction.

If the 2nd corps should have beaten or distressed the enemy at Waterford, or if Dublin should have been reinforced by troops from England, so as that there is no longer any apprehension for the safety of Dublin from the operations of the enemy in this quarter, the operations of the 2nd corps should be turned to oppose the enemy supposed to have landed in the provinces at the mouth of the Shannon. The operations of this corps of the

enemy may be directed to facilitate the advance upon Dublin of the others from Connaught, or Waterford, or both.

If the Waterford corps should be no longer an object of apprehension, the operations of the 2nd corps upon this body of the enemy will not be difficult. He must be attacked at the earliest period; and if he should be too strong for the 2nd corps, the object must be for the 1st and 2nd corps to join, and fall either upon the enemy advancing from the mouth of the Shannon, or from Connaught, before they can form a junction. If this cannot be effected, then the retreat must be made towards Dublin. The operations of the 3rd corps, aided by the yeomanry of the south-east district of Cork, amounting to about 2000 men, of which number 400 are cavalry, should be directed solely to retain possession of the city of Cork if possible, and of the anchoring-ground in the harbour at all events. Their operations must depend upon the exact spot on which the enemy will land; and the defence of Cork and its harbour has been so ably discussed by others, and is so much a question of detail, that it is not expedient to enter into a consideration of it at present. If the enemy should make no attack upon Cork Harbour, of course these troops will join those at Cashel; but, considering the prospect which will exist of getting large reinforcements from England to Dublin, and the importance of retaining the harbour of Cork, I should not think it advisable to draw away this corps if the enemy should attack Cork, although the 2nd corps should be too weak to oppose with success either of the corps with which it is supposed that it may have to contend.

The operations of the 4th corps must be directed to protect and secure the city of Dublin, aided by the yeomanry of the county and of the city of Dublin, amounting to about 5000 men, of which between 500 and 600 are cavalry.

The objects in collecting this corps in Dublin are—first, to guard against disaffection; secondly, to protect the city against a landing which might be made higher up in St. George's Channel than Waterford, or against an enemy which might have been able to pass or outmarch the 1st or 2nd corps of the army; thirdly, to be the foundation of an army to be formed in the neighbourhood of Dublin, which will be composed of the reinforcements which will arrive from England, and of the 1st and 2nd corps of the army which may have retired.

It will have been observed throughout this discussion, that the great object will be to defeat one of the enemy's corps upon his first landing. Of course, therefore, if it should appear practicable to effect this object by the junction of a part of this 4th corps, either with the 1st or 2nd, and without immediate risk to the capital, it would be desirable to attempt it. Everything will depend upon the intelligence and celerity with which these corps will make their marches, and will form their junctions for their mutual support and the security of the great object.

Ireland is so much intersected by good roads, all practicable for troops with light artillery, and so little interrupted by rivers, that, with a little intelligence and activity, and possessing such advantages as we have in the good equipment of our artillery, this object will certainly be effected, notwithstanding the supposed superior activity, strength, and skill of the enemy.

Besides the measures of which the above is an outline, there are others to be adopted which will tend materially to the security of the country in case the apprehended invasion should be made.

Upon the arrival of the first account of the enemy's intentions, the yeomanry ought to be called out, and to be placed on permanent duty in every county in Ireland, and should be employed as follows, under the immediate command of the yeomanry brigade majors and inspecting field officers, and such general officers as might be appointed to superintend them :—

The Yeomanry of Londonderry, 1750 men, to occupy the city of Derry, and the entrance of Lough Foyle and Lough Swilly.

The Yeomanry of Donegal, 1750 men, to occupy Ballyshannon and Strabane, and prevent the communication between the disaffected of Donegal, and Derry, and Tyrone.

The Yeomanry of Tyrone, 2500 men, of which 250 are cavalry, to remain in reserve, cantoned between Strabane and Monaghan. The object of this corps to be, to watch the disaffected in the counties of Donegal, Derry, Tyrone, and Antrim, and to move upon and attack them the moment they shall be guilty of any act of insurrection or disturbance.

The Yeomanry of the county of Antrim, 4000 men, of which 200 are cavalry : 1,000 men to occupy Belfast and Carrickfergus ; the remainder to be marched into the county of Longford, to

occupy the bridges and passes over the Shannon, from Longford to Lanesborough.

The Yeomanry of the county of Down, 4,500. One thousand to remain in reserve in the county for the same purpose as the Tyrone Yeomanry in Tyrone; the remainder, 3500, to be in reserve in the county of Meath, and to watch the movements of the disaffected in that county, Kildare, Westmeath, and Dublin, and to support the corps which will be posted to keep up the communication between Galway and the capital.

Leitrim Yeomanry, 1000 men, Carrick on Shannon. This corps to communicate with the Antrim Yeomanry at Longford, and to guard the passes of the Upper Shannon as far as Lough Allen.

Fermanagh Yeomanry, 3000 men, of which 160 cavalry: 600 men, Enniskillen; 2,400 in reserve in the King's County, to watch the movements of the disaffected in the King's and Queen's Counties, to support the corps on the passes of the Shannon, and those posted on the communication between Dublin and the 2nd corps at Cashel.

Cavan Yeomanry, 2700 men, of which 200 cavalry; 1000 men Belturbet, to watch the movements of the disaffected in Cavan and Leitrim, 1700 men Athlone.

King's County Yeomanry, 1600 men; the bridges at Banagher, and Shannon Bridge.

Armagh Yeomanry, 1550 men, of which 50 cavalry; 500 Newry, 1000 at Monaghan, to watch the movements of the disaffected in that county and Armagh.

Monaghan Yeomanry, 1600 men, of which 130 cavalry; the bridge over the Shannon at Portumna.

The yeomanry of the other counties to be on duty within them; their duty to be to keep up the communication between the capital and the different corps, to watch the movements of the disaffected, the first collection of whom must be attacked instantly, and they must likewise support those detachments of their corps posted for the security of the communication.

In case the yeomanry should be overpowered in any particular county, either by the advance of the enemy or by the strength of the disaffected, they must not be allowed to disperse, but must fall back upon one of the corps of reserve yeomanry drawing towards the north of Ireland. As the enemy will ad-

vance towards Dublin, and while the regulars will be engaged with them in more solid operations, the yeomanry will have it in their power to render most essential service, not only by securing the communication between the armies and Dublin, and between each other, but by impeding the enemy's communication with the country, and stopping all supplies from going to him.

The next subject to be considered is the police of the country during the invasion.

The first measure to be adopted is to seize all the leaders of disaffection in all parts of Ireland upon the first alarm; and with this view accurate lists of them shall be prepared, with their description, their usual places of abode, and those to which they are likely to fly in case this event should occur.

The next thing to do is to proclaim martial law all over the country; the object of this proclamation will be not to subject the people to military licentiousness, but to oblige them to obey, and make it criminal to disobey, the orders of the General or other superior officers commanding in the different districts.

The object of these orders must be, first, to prevent any man from leaving his house between sunset and sunrise without a pass by the commanding officer, excepting the Justices of the Peace and those who will attend them for the purpose of enforcing obedience to the orders of the General.

Secondly, to oblige every man to post upon his door the list of the names and the description of the persons in his house.

Thirdly, to make the master of the house responsible that those persons are in the house at night, unless absent by the licence of the commanding officer.

Fourthly, to prevent any number of persons beyond ten from assembling at any time in any place.

Fifthly, to oblige all persons to give up their arms.

Sixthly, to force the supply of provisions and carriages for the service of the army.

Seventhly, to prevent their being supplied to the enemy.

The commanding officers must be held responsible for the conduct of their troops, as well in the performance of this part of their duty as of all others.

The commissariat should be directed to be prepared to supply the two principal corps which will operate in Connaught and in Munster.

It may be expected that the city of Dublin will be distressed for provisions ; and, in the expectation of such an event, I recommend that the Commissary General should make arrangements for procuring at Liverpool, or even lower down in St. George's Channel, a supply of flour and meat for the use of the troops and yeomanry only.

In respect to the ordnance, I recommend that a reserve of artillery and stores, for the use of the troops in Ireland, should be collected at Liverpool or lower down. I also recommend that the artillery in Ireland should be reinforced with at least sixty pieces of field artillery of the new pattern.

The 2nd corps of the army would require ten pieces more ; the corps of yeomanry in reserve in Tyrone, four pieces ; the reserve in Meath, six pieces ; the reserve in the King's County, four pieces ; the reserve in Cavan, four pieces ; the reserve at Monaghan, two pieces ; and besides these, wherever the yeomanry could assemble six hundred men besides the detachments which it would be necessary they should have out to keep up the communication, they ought to have with them two pieces of cannon. There is nothing that encourages raw troops equally with cannon, and on the other hand there is no country in which cannon can be used with so much facility as in Ireland, and none in which this branch of the service could be used with more advantage considering the nature of the enemy against whom it is probable the yeomanry would be opposed.

[207.]

To the Earl of Harrington.

MY DEAR LORD,

Moore Abbey, 1st Dec., 1807.

I have received a letter from Lord Castlereagh, in which he has suggested to me the expediency of requesting you to move the regiments of militia into or to the neighbourhood of their counties, with a view to their recruiting. I shall be obliged to you if you will consider of the propriety of adopting this measure. It is evident that in some instances, such as Tipperary, Limerick, Waterford, and Kerry, it cannot be carried into execution, and, possibly, in very few instances without great inconvenience.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. John Foster.

[208.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Moore Abbey, 1st Dec., 1807.

I omitted to answer your letter respecting the Inspectors of Excise before I left town. Upon considering all that passed between you and me on that subject, it appeared to me that the arrangement which I proposed to make would have all the advantages of that which you had suggested, as well as others which the arrangement which you proposed could not have. One of these is that it enables government to promote persons who may be deserving of promotion, but who may not have gone through the regular gradations of rank in the Excise.

In respect to the opinion of Lord Annesley from the public documents on that subject, I am authorised to say that the Board of Commissioners approve of the arrangement as it now stands; and I have to add that, having consulted the King's ministers upon this subject, as I invariably do upon every case in which I may have reason to believe that a difference of opinion exists, I find that they approve of the arrangement which has been made.

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will let me have Jackson's paper on the promotion in the Excise, that I may draw the orders upon that part of our arrangement.

The Parliament will meet, I believe, after the Queen's birthday. It is desirable that we should set the law officers to work as soon as may be convenient upon the Bills which it may be necessary to bring in to carry into execution your plans for the Ways and Means of the year.

Ever, my dear Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. John Foster.

[209.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Ballyfinn, 2nd Dec., 1807.

I am fully convinced that government will never receive one penny in return for all the money that is laid out in the gold mine;* and I should be glad to discontinue the works there tomorrow if it were in my power.

I conceive, however, that the question whether they shall be continued or not is not exactly one of gain or loss, but it is to

* This mine is in the county Wicklow; and a guard of soldiers was stationed there for some years to preserve the rights of the Crown.

be decided by considerations referable to the police of the country and to the industry of the people.

I believe that government began to explore the gold mine, not with a view to gain what was to be got from it, but to prevent the assembly of idle people there, and the loss which individuals would have sustained if they had been allowed to speculate in the mine; and I believe that the same considerations ought to induce us to continue the work, notwithstanding that it is more clear than ever that nothing will ever be got by it. We ought, however, to confine the expense within the narrowest bounds that may be possible, and to restrain those charged with the work from exceeding the sum estimated and allowed by the government.

There would be no harm in giving Mr. Mills the sum which he now requires, which I believe is really necessary; and in future to allow him such a sum annually as will really cover the expenses which I, for one, think must be continued. The amount of this future expense may be ascertained by calling for a detailed estimate.

Ever, my dear Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[210.]

To Lord Mulgrave.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 5th Dec., 1807.

There is a young gentleman, named Francis John Turner, at present a midshipman on board H. M. S. *Melpomene*, to whom I am anxious to draw your Lordship's favourable notice. I understand that he has served nearly seven years, and his object, of course, now is to be promoted to a lieutenantcy. He is the son of a Mr. Turner in this country, who has strong claims to the favour of government for the loyalty and zeal with which he conducted himself during the rebellion in Ireland in 1798, and for the severe losses and misfortunes which were the result of the steady attachment which his family manifested at that crisis to the cause of their King and country.

I shall be much obliged to your Lordship for any mark of countenance or protection which you may have an opportunity of showing to Mr. Francis John Turner in the line of his profession.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Ross.

[211.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 6th Dec., 1807.

I received your letter respecting Mr. Elwood, and, according to your desire, I will bring his claims for promotion regularly before the Lord-Lieutenant, when the arrangements in the Custom House and Excise Office will be made, which would put it in the power of his Grace to gratify your wishes in this respect. I rather believe, however, that we shall be obliged to postpone the execution of these arrangements till after the next session of Parliament, on account of the enormity and complex nature of the fees taken in all the offices, and the loss which the public will sustain by abolishing them, and giving salaries in lieu of them, before Parliament will make a provision to cover this expense.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Thomas Harding, Esq.

[212.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 7th Dec., 1807.

In reply to your letter of the 29th November I have the honour to inform you that measures have been adopted to send a supply of coin to Cork, which it is hoped will arrive there at an early period; but whether it does or not, it is necessary that steps should be taken to prevent the circulation of small notes contrary to law.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Morgan Kennedy, Esq.

[213.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 7th Dec., 1807.

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 29th ultimo. I hope that tranquillity will be restored throughout the country in the course of a short period of time, and it certainly will be so if the gentlemen exert themselves.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[214.]

To C. P. Leslie, Esq.

MY DEAR LESLIE,

Dublin Castle, 7th Dec., 1807.

I think you are quite right in proceeding to the ballot for the quota for the militia from the six parishes which have preferred that mode of proceeding to the mode of parish assessment ; and I think it very probable that an early ballot will have the effect you expect from it. This effect will be produced equally by a measure which I am about to adopt generally for all the counties, viz., to desire them to ballot for their quotas on a certain day to be fixed, if they should not before that day have got all their men ; but I strongly recommend you to proceed with your ballot for the six parishes as soon as you can.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[215.]

To the Rev. Isaac Ashe.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 7th Dec., 1807.

I have received and perused your play. I will send and recommend it to the manager of the playhouse, but you must be aware that no recommendation of that sort can ensure it success.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[216.]

To the Marquess of Sligo.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 7th Dec., 1807.

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 24th of November. I am happy to find that the county of Mayo is going on so well, and particularly so to hear of the progress made, under your Lordship's auspices, in completing the quota for the militia.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. John Foster.

[217.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 8th Dec., 1807.

I enclose a letter which I have received from the Mayor of Cork, and I beg to draw your attention to that part of it in which he states that it is not Mr. Mahon's intention even to give publicity to the proposed measure of stopping the circulation of the illegal small notes. Did you not purpose that those who have circulated them should be prosecuted ; and if so, will it not be necessary to give further directions to Mr. Mahon? You will see upon the back of the letter a note of my answer to the Mayor, in which I have not touched upon the question whether those who have circulated these notes shall be prosecuted or not.

Ever, my dear Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon.

[218.]

MY DEAR COLONEL,

Dublin Castle, 8th Dec., 1807.

Lord Harrington has suggested to the Duke of Richmond that it would be convenient to have the power of stationing one Inspecting Field Officer of Yeomanry in each of the military divisions in Ireland, of which there are six ; and the Duke having agreed in opinion with Lord Harrington, has desired me to request you would recommend to His Royal Highness to appoint two additional Inspecting Field Officers for the service of this country. In case His Royal Highness should comply with this recommendation, the Duke of Richmond would recommend Lieutenant-Colonel Benson, who was upon the list which you first sent over here, and Lord Hertford's friend, Colonel Hardy, for these appointments.

The Duke of Richmond has also desired me to ask you to request His Royal Highness will give an ensigncy to Mr. Robert Curtis, who has been recommended to him by Lord Norbury.

Ever, my dear Colonel, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[219.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 8th Dec., 1807.

Mr. Perceval told me that he had given you a paper upon tithes which I had sent to him, and he wished that I should have a bill drawn in conformity with the suggestions contained in that paper, upon which he had noted in the margin some remarks. I shall be obliged to you if you will send it to me in order that I may have the bill drawn in conformity with your remarks and his.*

We are still very bare of troops: none of our reinforcements arrive, and all our old troops go away. By the enclosed statement you will see that our numbers have diminished in the last month. I also beg to draw your attention to the disembarkation states which the Duke sends you, in which you will see how the battalions intended for service in Ireland are provided with officers.

We had a thaw for a few days, but the frost has now commenced again. I have reason to believe, however, that there is no danger of a scarcity; this will be a dear year, and that is the only inconvenience which the people will suffer.

The counties of Tipperary, Limerick, and Waterford are much more tranquil than they were; and Serjeant Moore is gone down to Limerick, and will go from thence to Clonmel, to examine the evidence against the prisoners in confinement, and report whether there is such a prospect of convicting a few of them as to render it expedient to send down a special commission.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The military statement which I intended to send you is not made out, but I will send it to-morrow.

[220.]

To M. Higgins, Esq.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 9th Dec., 1807.

I have laid before the Lord-Lieutenant your letter of the 6th instant, and his Grace has directed me to express his

* See Memorandum on Tithes, p. 167.

acknowledgments of the zeal and vigilance for the public interests which you have manifested on this occasion. Intimation of a confidential nature has been given to the officer commanding the troops at Athlone of the possible danger to which the garrison might be exposed, and he has been directed to adopt measures which will provide for its security without creating any alarm in the town or country.

I beg that if you should think it proper, you will remark the person who gave you this intelligence, and let me know the amount of the reward which you will think it proper to give him.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Castlereagh.

[221.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 9th Dec., 1807.

I received your two letters regarding the militia, and I am sorry to tell you that we have got on but slowly in our recruiting of that body. It is difficult to procure accurate returns of the state of the levy, owing to the manner in which it is made; and I have reason to believe that it is much more forward than it appears to be by the returns which we have received. But I hope that in the course of a week I shall be able to let you know exactly how it stands. I am convinced, however, that, in order to complete the levy, it will be necessary to have recourse to the ballot; and according to your recommendation, and my own opinion, I have prepared a letter for circulation directing that in case two-thirds of the number of men allotted to each county are not raised by the 10th of January, a ballot shall take place on that day, and that all the previous arrangements required by the Act may be made in the mean time. I should have fixed on the 1st of January, only that the period of notice would have been too short; and the gentlemen of the country would have aggravated their complaint upon this point by another, that they were not allowed to commence their recruiting operations till the 1st of October.

I am afraid that we shall not be able to enforce the ballot in some counties, such as Kerry, Tipperary, Limerick, Waterford, and probably Clare, Longford, Roscommon, Sligo, and Donegal. In Mayo they have made great progress in completing their

levy, and in Meath, Dublin, and Cavan. I have spoken to Lord Harrington respecting the removal of the regiments to the neighbourhood of or into their counties. He seems to think that as much has been done in this way already as can be done with safety to the peace of the country; and it must likewise be observed that this measure, however favourable it may be deemed to the completion of the new levies, has been found to be much otherwise to the system of volunteering as well as very injurious to the real discipline of the regiments.

The difficulties in which we were likely to be involved by the state of our affairs in the south of Europe have induced me to turn my mind very seriously to the state of our military affairs in this country, and to the system on which we should act, and the measures which we ought to adopt, in case Ireland should be invaded. I drew a memorandum* upon those subjects, principally with a view to bring the different points to be attended to under the consideration of the Duke of Richmond and Lord Harrington, and in order that we might all discuss them and understand each other, and not to prescribe to them any particular set of measures to be adopted, respecting which it is more than probable that I should see reason to alter the opinion which I originally formed. Finding from the Duke and Lord Harrington that they agree with me, excepting the latter in some points of no very great consequence, I enclose you a copy of the paper which I gave to them, which I beg you to communicate to Lord Hawkesbury. I must tell you, however, that the detail of troops made out in that paper is framed from the returns of the 1st November, and that our force is diminished since that period, particularly in that essential point, first battalions of the line.

You will observe that I conceive that a much larger quantity of ordnance and a more numerous body of artillery than we have are necessary. Lord Harrington is decidedly of the same opinion, and the sooner they are sent to us the better:

I likewise enclose you a memorandum which I beg you to show to Lord Hawkesbury, upon the system of fortification† proposed for this country.

I beg that you and Lord Hawkesbury will consider, and let me have your opinion upon, the following points:

* See p. 202.

† See letter to Lord Hawkesbury, 11th Jan., 1808, p. 298.

First, the period at which we should place the yeomanry on permanent duty. I am decidedly of opinion that it ought to be done at the latest possible moment. The Irish like variety, and I fear that many of the yeomanry would be tired of the trade of soldiers if they were to carry it on for any great length of time before the enemy should arrive. Besides that, I observe that the efforts of the disaffected in Ireland are generally nearly proportionate to the military means of the government; and I am afraid that if we had our full force in array, we should only find full employment for them in internal objects without at all relieving the more regular part for the purpose of opposing the foreign enemy. My idea therefore is, to delay the adoption of this measure till the moment at which we should expect the arrival of the enemy.

The next point is, what you think of the proclamation of martial law. I believe that what is contained in my memorandum would be a better constitution for Ireland than that which it has; but shall we adopt it, and at what period?

The third is the seizure of the persons of the disaffected. I have every reason to believe that an organisation of a very dangerous kind exists at the present moment. That of the United Irishmen was founded upon assemblies of the lower orders of the people, and proceeded by election from these to the Executive Directory in Dublin. The plan according to which the organisation now exists proceeds from a self-appointed Directory in Dublin to deputies in some if not all of the counties of Ireland. These deputies have communication with the principal of the disaffected, who swarm in all parts of Ireland; and the affairs of this organised body are conducted with so much secrecy, that it is scarcely possible to trace them. Nobody knows anything of the Directory, excepting that member of it with whom he corresponds; and the communication with the deputies is carried on generally through third parties. We cannot find out exactly who the Directory are, but we believe that a man by name ——— is one, and ——— another. We have received repeated information that in the event of a landing all the disaffected would disappear; and I acknowledge that I am so well convinced of the existence of this organised body, of its communication with France, and of this determination in the principal persons to conceal themselves when they should have reason to expect invasion, that if I should

ever hear that these principal persons had disappeared, I should conclude that the danger was approaching us, and should put everything in a state of preparation for our defence.

Now, if this be the case, is it not incumbent upon us to seize these dangerous persons at the very moment at which we shall have serious reason to apprehend invasion? Having reason to believe that the organisation which I have above described exists, and having repeated proofs that the language of the principals of the disaffected is, "We are completely prepared; we know that the people are ready to rise, but we will not excite them to rebellion till the enemy will arrive," ought we to wait till we shall have given them a fair opportunity of carrying their plans into execution, and thereby increase tenfold the difficulties of the moment and the dangers of the army, and expose the existence of the British government in this country to the only chance against it? You in England must decide whether we shall be beforehand with these gentry, and seize them in time; if that should be your decision, you may depend upon it we will execute it.

I have written you a much longer letter than I intended, and I beg you to communicate it to Lord Hawkesbury, to whom I believe the Duke writes upon the same subject this day.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Charles W. Flint, Esq., to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR,

Irish Office, 28th Nov., 1807.

Having observed in the papers of this morning an article stating that an individual, a native of Ireland, had been lately sent by the French government to Vienna on a secret mission, and conceiving that the object of it may be to renew an offer which, I have reason to think, was made three years ago to the Irish officers in the Austrian service to co-operate with a French army destined to invade Ireland, I think it important you should be put in possession of a very curious and genuine document, which was communicated to me by an Irish officer of distinction in that service in December 1804, as in the event of any attack being in contemplation against Ireland, it is more than probable Bonaparte would be guided by the same views and principles as those laid down by him in his answer to Mr. Emmett's Memoir of the 4th January, 1804, a copy of which you will find enclosed,

I have the honour to be with much respect,

My dear Sir, most faithfully yours,

C. W. FLINT.

[ENCLOSURE.]

Copy of a Letter from Mr. — to Colonel —.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Morlaix, 1st Feb., 1804.

Having written a few days ago to Nancy, I should not have so soon again addressed another letter to Prague, but for news I received since, which it is necessary to communicate to William Aylmer, after what I have already written to him. In my former I mentioned to him that an Irish corps was organizing here, in which I was promised a company for him; at that time I did not know anything of the permanency of that body, but yesterday I received a letter from Mr. Emmett, enclosing the First Consul's answer to a Memoir of his, the objects of which will be sufficiently understood from the answer itself. Since I find that, at the worst, the Irish brigades will be kept up in France, and that if we succeed in Ireland we will be much better off, I have thought it might be advantageous to William to send one or two of his sons here with Aylmer. There is no service I can render them which I will not zealously perform. It is for him to consider whether the thing is worth his adopting. The sooner he gives me an answer, the better posts I will be able to get for the young men: should they come, what do you think of sending your nephew Harry, the youngest?

Copy of the First Consul's Answer to Mr. Emmett's Memoir, 13 Nivose, delivered 27 Nivose.

“ Le Premier Consul a lu avec la plus grande attention le Mémoire qui lui a été adressé par Mr. Emmett le 13 Nivose. Il désire que les Irlandais Unis soient bien convaincus que son intention est d'assurer l'indépendance de l'Irlande, et de donner protection entière et efficace à tous ceux d'entre eux qui prendront part à l'expédition, ou se joindront aux armées Françaises. Aussitôt que les troupes Françaises auront touché le territoire Irlandais, le Premier Consul déclarera qu'il ne fera pas la paix avec l'Angleterre sans assurer l'indépendance de l'Irlande, dans le cas, cependant, où l'armée aura été jointe par un corps considérable d'Irlandais Unis. L'Irlande sera en tout traitée comme l'Amérique dans la guerre passée. Tout individu qui s'embarquera avec l'armée Française destinée pour l'expédition sera commissionné comme Français; s'il étoit arrêté et qu'il ne fut pas traité comme prisonnier de guerre, la représaille s'exercera sur les prisonniers Anglais. Tout corps formé au nom des Irlandais Unis sera considéré comme faisant partie de l'armée Française. Enfin, si l'expédition ne réussissoit pas, et que les Irlandais fussent obligés de revenir en France, la France entretiendra un certain nombre de brigades Irlandaises, et fera des pensions à tout individu qui auroit fait partie du gouvernement ou des autorités du pays. Les pensions pourront être assimilées à celles qui sont accordées en France aux titulaires de grades ou d'emplois correspondans qui ne sont pas en activité.”

As I expect, wind and weather permitting, not to be in France when Aylmer might arrive in Paris, he and my cousins, and Henry, may address themselves by letter, or personally, to Mr. Emmett on the subject of this letter. His address is No. 914, Rue Cassette, F. G., à Paris.

Lord Castlereagh to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR WELLESLEY,

Brighton, 22nd Nov., 1807.

I congratulate you on the success of the militia volunteering in Ireland, which certainly, upon the whole, has worked more favourably than either

in England or Scotland, and leaves us no room to doubt before the expiration of the twelve months, that either out of the old or new men we shall have derived the full quota authorised to enter into the line.

I observe, by a letter from Sir E. Littlehales to my brother, that the progress hitherto made in the new series in Ireland is not so satisfactory, notwithstanding the various facilities that you have afforded the counties for raising men. As I conclude that few, if any, will proceed in the first instance to a ballot (which, by the bye, is the only complete and perfect security for obtaining the number required), and as the period for completing the levy is limited to six months, I wish to submit to your consideration whether it would not be desirable now to name the time that every county should peremptorily proceed to a ballot for any men then deficient. The effect of this, I should think, would be that this notice would operate as a stimulus during the interval to exertion, and that by ordering them to have their lists previously prepared, sufficient time might still remain by the process of ballot to obtain the men, and thereby prevent the counties having the penalties levied upon them for default before the expiration of the time allowed by Act of Parliament for the termination of the levy. You can best judge what period may be most advisable to fix in this point of view; I should conceive it ought not to be postponed beyond the 1st of January.

Yours, my dear Wellesley, most sincerely,

CASTLEREAGH.

Lord Castlereagh to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

My DEAR WELLESLEY,

Brighton, 23rd Nov., 1807.

In addition to my suggestion of yesterday, with a view of accelerating the levy of militia men in Ireland, it has occurred to me to propose for your consideration, whether it might not be advantageous, where the Colonel of the regiment expected to derive advantage from it in obtaining men, to send the regiment for a couple of months to a cantonment within its own county. The return of the troops from the Baltic, and the facility of strengthening Ireland, is now such as may admit of such an arrangement without embarrassing your internal distribution; and if, by this means, the Irish regiments of militia could, during the winter, be raised to their full standard, we might then take measures for bringing over a portion of them to this country, and thereby lay the foundation of a system which I know the Duke of Richmond and yourself concur with us in thinking would be highly desirable.

With respect to my own regiment I have no doubt that if an exchange is made by sending it to Londonderry, and moving the regiment now there, we should very soon be able to complete to our full establishment, and that several of the officers of the regiment being deputy-governors, would be able to give additional activity to the civil proceedings under the Militia Act.

I am, my dear Wellesley,

Yours very sincerely,

CASTLEREAGH.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[222.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 9th Dec., 1807.

I enclose you the military statement which I promised you yesterday.

I have written a long letter to Lord Castlereagh upon our militia and military concerns, to which I refer you, as well as to some papers which I enclosed to him.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon.

[223.]

MY DEAR COLONEL,

Dublin Castle, 9th Dec., 1807.

The Duke of Richmond has desired me to recommend to the notice of His Royal Highness Ensign Matthew Mole, of the 26th regiment, who has had the command of a small detachment of that regiment stationed in the most disturbed district of the county of Limerick bordering upon the county of Tipperary, and has distinguished himself by his zeal and activity, and intelligence, and by keeping up a good understanding with the magistrates of the country. Promotion given to him, or any notice from His Royal Highness, would have the best effect in the army in this country.

He wishes to be made a barrack-master in Great Britain ; but the Duke of Richmond and I think him so likely to turn out a useful officer, that we are of opinion that he would be thrown away upon that office.

Ever, my dear Colonel, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To John Bagwell, Esq.

[224.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 9th Dec., 1807.

I have taken measures respecting your wishes in favour of Mr. Birch.

I have also communicated to the Lord Lieutenant your wishes respecting Mr. Boyle's resignation of his office, and the removal to it of Mr. Croker, the Barrack-Master of Clonmel ;

and his Grace has desired me to tell you that he cannot make any arrangement for filling an office the holder of which has not yet resigned it. His Grace also observed that he does not consider it expedient to give Mr. Croker an office worth 500*l.* per annum in order to induce him to vacate the office of Barrack-Master of Clonmel, even if the office in question were vacant.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[225.]

To the Hon. Henry Wellesley.

MY DEAR HENRY,

Dublin Castle, 12th Dec., 1807.

We are very much in want of the services of Captain Melassey, of the Commissary-General's department in this country, who went to England with a view to be employed with the army on the Continent in the last year, but did not go. Pray let the Commissary-General settle his accounts, and return him to the Irish commissariat.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[226.]

To the Marquess of Hertford.

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 12th Dec., 1807.

I have the honour to enclose some letters which have been received here regarding the state of the Polyglass corps of yeomanry, in the county of Antrim; and I shall be obliged to your Lordship if you will let me know who you wish should be appointed to command this corps.

By the desire of the Lord-Lieutenant, I have within these few days recommended that two inspecting field officers of yeomanry should be added to the establishment in Ireland; and that Colonel Hardy, who had been recommended by your Lordship, should be one of them.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 14th Dec., 1807.

I have received your letter of the 11th regarding our tithe plans, and the bills shall be forthwith prepared according to your directions. In respect to the consent of the Bishops, I beg leave to suggest to you the following mode of proceeding in order to obtain it: that when you will receive the bills you should consult the opinion of the Primate, who is in England, while I should do the same by the Archbishop of Cashel, who is here; that having these two authorities with us, we should speak to the Bishop of Ferns, the Bishop of Cloyne, the Bishop of Clogher, the Bishop of Derry, probably the Bishop of Cork, and possibly the Bishop of Elphin; that having strengthened ourselves with these opinions, and particularly with those of the Primate and the Archbishop of Cashel, we should consult the Archbishop of Dublin and the Bishop of Meath.

My reason for recommending this mode of proceeding is, that I know that if we should go to work in the usual way, by consulting the Archbishops and Bishops as we may find it convenient, the Archbishop of Dublin will defeat us, whatever may be our plan; and the Bishop of Meath will do the same, if the plan should not suit his peculiar view of the affairs of the Church; and as a proof that I am correct in my notion of the influence of the Archbishop on the opinions of the Bishops, and of his readiness to exert it, I refer you to the Ecclesiastical Reports, in which you will see that he wrote an answer to some of the queries which he sent to some of his suffragan Bishops, and indeed I might say to all the Bishops, which, with very few exceptions, they adopted. Desire the Primate to give you the history of his conduct on this occasion.

If you should find the Primate unwilling to communicate with you upon these plans, I recommend that you should try him through the Archbishop of Canterbury, whom I conclude you will carry with you in every stage of this business.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[228.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

Dublin Castle, 14th Dec., 1807, 4 P.M.

There was nothing in the country letters this morning, and as I had nothing to communicate, I went to hear the decision on the case of Arran and Tyrawley, every point of which has been decided against the latter, excepting the original lease for his life of the demesne of Castle Gore.

I enclose a letter from Lord Hawkesbury, which has come by express, and an *Express* newspaper. I shall have the bills drawn as he proposes; but I mean to write to him upon the plan of gaining the assent of the clergy to our measures a letter, of which I will send you the copy.

Don't say anything upon this subject to your landlord.

The editor of the *Correspondent* has a note from the editor of the *Times* of Thursday night, stating that the King was very ill at Windsor. This is certainly not true; if it were true, Lord Hawkesbury would have mentioned it on Friday.

I find that Littlehales has his salary from the vote of credit, and I mean to place Busby's on the same fund, and will send you a warrant for it. Mention this to Foster.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[229.]

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 16th Dec., 1807.

The state of the provisions in Ireland has for some time engaged my most serious attention, and the result of my inquiries and of the consideration which I have given to the subject is, that although provisions will be dear throughout the year, there will be no scarcity. The crop of potatoes is sufficiently abundant to last for the usual time, and the crop of oats is so abundant, that that article would not have brought a price equal to the expense of producing it in the market if it had not been for the scarcity which exists in Scotland. As a proof that I am correct in my notions upon this subject, I mention to you that the price of oats and oatmeal, which has not for the last three months exceeded 25 per cent. beyond the ordinary price, has

fallen in the last ten days, and oats were in the last week at 17s. 1d. per barrel.

In respect to the remedies which you have mentioned, and for which I am much obliged to you, under the notion that we should be in want of provisions, I must observe, that to stop the exportation to Scotland at this moment, when that country is in want, would be a breach of a principle adopted unanimously by Parliament two sessions ago, in opening the trade in grain between the two countries, and this at a moment when Scotland was to derive the benefit of our food and we that of the high price occasioned by the scarcity in Scotland. To stop the distilleries without stopping the exportation, would only have the effect of giving our oats to Scotland at a cheaper rate than they now bear. You will say that all this is very well as long as there is no chance of a scarcity in Ireland, respecting which I can assure you that there will be none. Meat is 25 per cent. cheaper than in ordinary years; oats would bear the same proportion to ordinary years, if there were not a scarcity in Scotland; and potatoes are about 25 per cent. dearer than they are usually.

I will attend to the appointment of the Sheriff in Meath.

I was in hopes that we were on good terms with the Primate. He is a most respectable man, and I am convinced that government will never be disposed to adopt any measure relating to the Church without his consent, and that of many others of the Bishops in Ireland.

I have been able to stop the discussions on tithes in several counties, and I think that I shall be able to stop them entirely. I hear, however, of intended meetings in Kilkenny and Carlow, upon which I have set to work. I hope that I have prevented one in Wicklow, and I certainly have in Wexford.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Brigadier-General Mitchell.

[230.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 16th Dec., 1807.

In consequence of your letter of the 14th instant, I have requested the Lord-Chancellor to send the Commission of the Peace for the county of Limerick to Mr. Taylor and Mr. Balwyn.

In order to induce persons who, from their rank and situation in life, or from their known principles, ought to have arms in their possession, to register those that they may have, and take out certificates, I think it would be desirable that some noted men in different parts of the country should be sued for the penalty, in the manner pointed out by the Act of Parliament, before a magistrate who is likely to levy it. I shall be obliged to you if you will consult with Mr. Dixon upon this subject.

You may depend upon it that I shall never recommend that the arms which have been taken should be sold; and you shall have orders regarding the disposal of them as soon as I shall hear that they are lodged in the King's stores at Limerick.

The Lord-Lieutenant is now out of town, and I imagine that we cannot offer a reward by proclamation without a meeting of the Privy Council. But it can be arranged in another manner; and as I agree entirely in opinion with you that it is expedient to offer a reward for the apprehension of the Ryans, I will have orders sent upon the subject without loss of time.

I also agree in opinion with you respecting the expediency of urging the magistrates to meet in their respective baronies once a week. Considering the manner in which the minds of all the gentlemen in this country are influenced by difference of opinion on subjects which, although they have little or nothing to do with the disturbances which prevail in the country, prevent them from co-operating to preserve peace, and in any measure for the general or their own mutual advantage, I am much afraid that I shall not succeed in accomplishing this desirable object; but the difficulties which appear to impede its complete success shall not prevent me from endeavouring to accomplish it.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[231.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 17th Dec., 1807.

I am very anxious to have the papers which I sent you regarding the inquiries to be made into the state of Maynooth College, in order that the Chancellor may set to work as soon as the Term will be over.

Upon talking with him the other day respecting the measures which I had proposed to adopt in the event of invasion, he said that when he was Solicitor-General, and Mr. Perceval Attorney-General, they had considered, and given an opinion upon the measure of proclaiming martial law; and that he thought that opinion would be very useful to us in Ireland if we should be obliged to proclaim martial law. I shall be much obliged to you if you will inquire for, and send it to me.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Lord Chancellor.

[232.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 17th Dec., 1807.

General Mitchell, who has conducted our affairs in the county of Limerick with considerable success, has desired me to request you to appoint as magistrates Richard Taylor, jun., Esq., of Holy Park, and Saul Balwyn, Esq., of Carton. The former is the Captain of Kerry yeomanry, the latter is a gentleman who has been in the army. They both reside in a barony in the county of Limerick, in which there is no magistrate who is willing to do his duty; and General Mitchell has very lately been obliged to request gentlemen to come from the neighbouring baronies to extend to that barony the search for arms which had been made in all other parts of the country.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[233.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

Dublin Castle, 17th Dec., 1807.

Mr. Cavendish, whose office I told you in my letter of yesterday was vacant, is not dead yet, but I understand he is very ill indeed.

I enclose three letters received from Serjeant Moore, the two last of which you have not seen, and I am not quite certain that you have seen the first. I likewise enclose a letter from Clonmel, in which you will see by the resolutions of the magis-

trates that they are satisfied, and one from General Mitchell with my answers noted at the back of it. There is also a memorial from Mr. Tighe, with my opinion at the back of it.

I likewise enclose two letters regarding the putting the yeomanry on permanent duty for fourteen days towards the close of the winter, a measure which I conceive is highly expedient. Sign that to Lord Hawkesbury, and return the other letter if you should approve of this measure.

I likewise send you a complaint received from the Commander of the Forces regarding the state of the barracks at Bantry, and the copy of a letter which I have in consequence written to the Deputy Barrack-Master-General. Send all these papers back when you will have done with them.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I send the copy of my letter of Monday to Lord Hawkesbury regarding our ecclesiastical affairs.

[234.]

To James Agnew Farrel, Esq.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 17th Dec., 1807.

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 12th instant, and I shall always be happy to receive from you any suggestions which have for their object the improvement of so valuable a branch of the public force as the yeomanry of Ireland. I have already had the subject under consideration, and you will find that measures will be ordered and adopted which I hope will tend to the improvement of this valuable force.

I agree entirely in opinion with you respecting many of your suggestions, and I shall be obliged to you if you will favour me with your opinions upon this subject whenever it may suit your leisure.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To John Beckett, Esq.

[235.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 17th Dec., 1807.

I send you, for the information of Lord Hawkesbury, copies of two letters which have been received from Limerick from Serjeant Moore. I also send you a copy of certain resolutions which have been voted by a meeting of magistrates at Clonmel, so that you will observe that we are getting the better of the disturbances in the south.

The two northern baronies of Kerry are, however, in some degree disturbed, but we have made arrangements for carrying on operations within them in the same manner as in Tipperary and Limerick, and I dare say that we shall have the same success.

Ever, my dear Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I enclose a third letter received this morning from Serjeant Moore.

To Colonel Gore.

[236.]

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 17th Dec., 1807.

The memorial which you forwarded to me respecting certain persons convicted of a riot at Kilkenny has been referred to Judge Fox, and it appears from Judge Fox's report to have been a case of so atrocious a nature as to preclude entirely the possibility of remitting any portion of the punishment to which the offenders were sentenced. When the term of their imprisonment shall have expired, they will of course be released, on finding the necessary securities for their good behaviour; but until that time shall have arrived, it is impossible to liberate them without holding forth an example which would tend to frustrate the ends of justice and to encourage outrages against the public peace.

Ever, dear Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[237.]

To Matthew Higgins, Esq.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 17th Dec., 1807.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, for which I am much obliged to you.

I request the favour of you to continue the vigilance which you have hitherto used, and I shall be happy to hear from you whenever you shall have any matter to communicate to me upon the subject of the public interests.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[238.]

To William Ponsonby, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 17th Dec., 1807.

I yesterday received from certain magistrates of the county of Kerry, assembled at Listowell, a letter dated the 14th instant, containing the result of their meeting, at which I perceive you were present.

With respect to the proposition that that part of the country should be reinforced by cavalry, directions upon that subject were yesterday sent to the Commander of the Forces. I am not acquainted with the gentlemen who wrote to me upon this occasion, and I do not exactly know how far it would be expedient to authorize all of them to give rewards for information; but in order that no time or opportunity may be lost as to the objects of such an authority, I have written to Brigade-Major Mahoney, by this night's post, to request that he will inform such of the gentlemen who attended the meeting above referred to, to whom he may think it expedient to communicate this information, that he has authority from government to advance money as rewards for information to any reasonable amount which they may think proper to give. I have at the same time particularly requested that he will be careful to select for this purpose those who are the most likely to make a beneficial use of the authority to be confided to them. I beg that you will consider yourself as authorised to grant such rewards as shall appear to you to be reasonable and just for any information which shall tend to the conviction or discovery of any of those concerned in disturbing the public peace;

and I shall be obliged to you for every exertion which you may make to induce competent informers to come forward with their evidence ; and I request you to authorize any of the gentlemen who were present at the meeting of the 14th instant to give rewards for the same purpose to whom you may think that such authority may with propriety be confided.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To John Beckett, Esq.

[239.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 18th Dec., 1807.

I enclose the copy of a letter which has been received this day respecting an affair at Boyle in the county of Roscommon, in which an officer and some men have been wounded. It is not likely to lead to any bad consequence, and I send this letter only that Lord Hawkesbury may be apprised of the exact nature of this affair.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Castlereagh.

[240.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 18th Dec., 1807.

I enclose you a plan which has been put into my hands by Colonel Matthew for raising a fencible legion. He intends to fill the blanks by the sum usually given as bounty and by the size required for recruits by the King's regulations. I told him that I should send you this paper, but that I believed you would feel a disinclination to adopt any measure which should create a competition with the recruiting for the regular army which should tend only to increase that part of the force which is not disposable for service in all parts of the world. There are evidently other objections to the plan, to which, however, it does not appear that Colonel Matthew is particularly attached ; and I am convinced that if you are inclined to raise any men on the principle proposed by him, he will raise them on any plan you should prefer.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY,

[241.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

Dublin Castle, 19th Dec., 1807.

I send you another letter from Serjeant Moore, to whom I have written to desire him to come up to town. Till the Sheriffs will be changed we should be foiled in our attempts to convict any of the persons confined, and Serjeant Moore may as well be in town when we shall discuss the propriety of sending a commission into Tipperary in the end of January.

I likewise send you a memorial from Mr. Darby with a remark upon it.

Admiral Murray is arrived at Cork with troops from Buenos Ayres. It is reported that he spoke a vessel from Lisbon, from which he received intelligence that the Prince Regent had gone to the Brazils with the Portuguese fleet; the French army to Lisbon; and the Russian fleet to the Tagus.

We receive daily accounts of the expectations of the militia-men raised in 1803 that they will be discharged in the next year, founded upon points upon which I am not quite certain that they are not right. They took an oath in '93 of the same purport precisely, and in the same words (excepting that it was to serve for four years instead of five years), as in the year 1803; and in 1797 the Parliament of Ireland pass a clause in an Act of Parliament, in the words contained in the enclosed, *declaring* that that oath was not to bind them beyond four years. Then they claim their discharge upon a construction of the words of the oath, and the fact that a new militia has not been embodied since they took it.

My opinion is that if we detain the men in the service we may have a breeze; and, at all events, whether we have one or not, they will always be discontented soldiers. If we should give up the point, we may have to discharge nine or ten thousand men in March or April, but many of them would engage again, and, at all events, we should experience no difficulty in finding new men to make up the deficiency.

The lawyers with whom I have conversed this day tell us that we are certain of our law. But I acknowledge that I should experience great difficulty in convincing a soldier that a form of words which bore one construction in '97 is to bear a

different construction now, and I am very certain that he never would be satisfied with his situation.

Let me know your opinion upon this subject.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[242.]

MY DEAR LORD,*

Dublin Castle, 19th Dec., 1807.

I send you another letter received this day from Serjeant Moore. As the Sheriff of the county of Tipperary is one of the persons who represent the county to be in a state of perfect tranquillity, notwithstanding all that has passed, we should have no chance of convicting anybody if we were to send down a special commission before the new Sheriff will be appointed in January. I have therefore desired Serjeant Moore to come up to Dublin, and when he will arrive I will decide whether it will be worth while to send down the commission after the Sheriff will be changed.

Admiral Murray is arrived at Cork with the troops from Buenos Ayres.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Clanricarde.

[243.]

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 19th Dec., 1807.

I have had the honour of receiving your Lordship's letter of the 17th instant, relative to the Loughrea, Clanricarde, and Tyaquin yeomanry. I agree entirely in opinion with your Lordship that it is expedient to have the means of giving military employment to a part of the population of Loughrea, and to render it certain that, in case of disturbance, there should be a military force of some description in that town. It appears, however, from the papers which have been heretofore transmitted to your Lordship from the War Office that the Loughrea infantry are in very bad order, and your Lordship is of opinion that, as a military body, they have greatly fallen off; that the officers have no disposition towards a military line of life; that

the Captain resides too far from the town, and therefore that at present their services are not adequate to the expense of continuing them on the establishment.

Having a most anxious desire to maintain the yeomanry establishment of Ireland, particularly in those parts of the country in which it would be necessary to station troops in the event of disturbance, I beg leave to submit to your Lordship's consideration the propriety of requiring the gentlemen who are at present the officers of the Loughrea yeomanry to resign their commissions, and that your Lordship should recommend others better qualified, and whose dispositions would be congenial with the habits of a military life, and with the duties which they would have to perform.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[244.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

Dublin Castle, 21st Dec., 1807.

I enclose a very satisfactory letter which I have received from Mackenzie, and a letter containing very good news from the Tagus, upon which I congratulate you. I likewise send you a newspaper, containing all the intelligence which has been received here in the course of the day upon the same subject.

You will recollect that I told you that Mr. Mills, of Kildare, had mentioned this as one of the days on which it was probable that there might be a breeze in the county of Kildare. Seven of the persons, called the "Kildare Captains," were in Dublin on Saturday, and some part of yesterday; and therefore, notwithstanding that the intelligence from other quarters would give one reason to believe that all is quiet, I have urged Lord Harrington to desire that the soldiers of the garrison might be kept in their quarters this night.

There is nothing else of any importance.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To W. Ponsonby, Esq.

[245.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 21st Dec., 1807.

I am much obliged to you for your letter of the 17th instant. I had already answered that from the magistrates, as you will have learned from my letter to you of the 17th. I request you to persevere in your exertions to complete the militia, and I hope to hear from you from time to time concerning its progress.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Colonel Browne.

[246.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 21st Dec., 1807.

I am much obliged to you for your letter of the 14th instant, and if consulted respecting the character of the officers in the East India Company's service, I shall always be happy to give my testimony in their favour.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. Denis Browne.

[247.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 21st Dec., 1807.

I am much obliged to you for your letter of the 18th instant. I hope and I have reason to believe that you are mistaken, or have been misinformed, respecting the state of the crop; and under all circumstances, as they appear at present, I should hesitate to stop the exportation of oats to Scotland, which would be a departure from the principles adopted by Parliament for regulating the intercourse, with respect to grain, between the two countries, or to stop the distilleries, which would have the effect of lowering the price, for the benefit of Scotland, at the expense of the proprietors in Ireland.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[248.] *To the Hon. Colonel Foster, Louth Regiment of Militia, Colton.*

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 21st Dec., 1807.

I lose not a moment in answering your letter of the 20th instant, and beg leave to refer you to the 12th section of the Act of the 47th of the King, chapter 56, in which you will see that the parishes which are enabled to levy money by assessment are to apply the money so raised "as they shall think fit for providing a sufficient number of persons to serve as substitutes or volunteers for such parish." They are not compelled to make the assessment, and many parishes in Ireland have omitted to make it; but having made it, they are equally responsible for the production of the men, as they would be for the men to be produced by ballot under the Act of Parliament and the Lord-Lieutenant's proclamation. You will perceive by the 14th clause that the men to be produced *by the churchwardens* at any time previous to "the day appointed for choosing the men by ballot," shall be enrolled and serve; and it follows that if the number of men to be produced by the churchwardens be not equal to the number allotted by the deputy-governor to be raised by such parish under the power given in the 18th section, not only the parish must proceed to a ballot, but if the ballot should not produce the number required, the county will be liable to the penalty laid on by the 15th section.

This is my decided opinion; but in this, as in every other point connected with the proceedings to be adopted under the Militia Laws, the Attorney and Solicitor-General have been consulted, and those which have been ordered have received their sanction.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[249.]

To the Lord Primate.

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 22nd Dec., 1807.

Having been informed that some of the clergy understand that in the returns of the unendowed schools in their respective parishes they are to state the number of scholars actually attending such schools at the time they make the return, I am commanded by the Lord-Lieutenant to request that your Grace will have the goodness to apprise the clergy of your diocese

DEC., 1807.

DECLINES TO INCREASE TAXES.

239

that it would be more satisfactory, and more fully ascertain the number of persons receiving education in such schools, if they would state the number which usually attend each during the summer season, as well as the number attending during the winter.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. John Foster.

[250.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 23rd Dec., 1807.

I return Mr. Huskisson's letter. Upon general grounds I should differ in opinion with him, and should think it better not to increase our taxes in Ireland for some time, even till peace, if that should be necessary. Our object here should be to keep the country quiet, in which we are more likely to succeed by moderate taxes than by adopting the system which prevails in England.

In respect to the quit rents, I understand that it was intended by the late government to adhere to the precedent adopted in England; and in order to save the value of the rents to the Crown, and place the amount derived from the sales in the funds for the benefit of the heir, the interest being applicable during the King's life to the current service. I agree with you in thinking that if the sales produce scarcely any thing, it would be proper to stop them; the rights of the heir would thus be protected, and the rents would in the mean time be applicable to any branch of the public service that you might think proper.

I sent to England the queries [about Maynooth] which it had been agreed should be sent to the visitors of the College, and I have not yet received them from Lord Hawkesbury. The Chancellor has had a long letter from Perceval upon the subject, and I expect to receive the answer from the cabinet by every mail. As soon as I shall receive it I will not delay a moment in writing to the visitors.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[251.]

*To the Lord Bishop of Cork and Ross.**

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 23rd Dec., 1807.

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 20th instant, and I beg that you will do as you please respecting the clerical error in the forms for the returns of schools. Notice was taken of this error by some persons high in the Church in this town; and I was therefore induced to request the Bishops would correct it by the circular letters, of which your Lordship received one.

You will receive by this post some additional forms. Allow me to take this opportunity of congratulating your Lordship upon your promotion to the Bench, and to assure you that you did not owe it in any degree to the solicitation of powerful friends, much less to engagements made by former governments, but entirely to the sense which the Lord-Lieutenant and the King's ministers entertained that you were the most fit to be promoted of the whole clerical profession.

I have the honour to be, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[252.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

Dublin Castle, 23rd Dec., 1807.

I send you a letter come by the express from Lord Hawkesbury, and one from Mr. Birkett to me. I congratulate you upon the news contained in the latter.

I likewise enclose a letter from Archdeacon St. Leger, with one from the Archbishop of Cashel. Who do you intend should be appointed to the living of Tipperary? It will be proper to make all these arrangements as soon as possible.

There is nothing new this day of any description.

There are many robberies in the neighbourhood of Dublin, but all quiet in other respects.

—, I believe, does not expect that all he has asked for should be done for him; he would probably be satisfied with a part. Shall I tell him that any part, and what part, shall be done for him?

* The Hon. Thomas St. Lawrence, D.D.

Serjeant Moore is returned, and I am to see him and the Attorney and Solicitor-General to decide whether there shall be a commission.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I went to see the little girls this day, and they are very well, and so is little Lady Edward.

The money, 5000*l.*, is arrived. Shall I pay Lord Shannon a year's salary due to his father? The whole account is one year and three-quarters.

To the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval.

[253.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 24th Dec., 1807.

I send you by this post the intended report of the last Board of Education on Schools in Ireland. This was drawn by the late Provost Hutchinson, and contains, I believe, a true account of the institutions to which it relates. The Board differed in opinion from him; the report was not agreed to; and this paper was never published, or in any official form communicated to government. I also send you a pamphlet upon the Protestant Charter Schools, written by Mr. Disney, who is at the head of this institution; this contains the best account of those schools.

I enclose some papers on the means in our power, and the provisions, for building churches, purchasing glebes, building glebe houses, increasing small livings, &c. &c., in Ireland. You will observe that the Church is rich, and will afford not only to do every thing that is required in the way of building, but likewise to make up small livings of the value of 100*l.* per annum.

I beg you to communicate these papers to Lord Hawkesbury.

I am employed in drawing bills on the ecclesiastical subjects which you have already had before you, which I hope to be able to send you in a few days.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

MEMORANDUM ON EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

Upon a consideration of the Reports of the Boards of Education in Ireland, as far as they go, I find it difficult to propose any general system for new modelling the schools, or the establishment of any new school upon a foundation similar to that of the large public schools in England, on account of the manner in which the funds of all the schools have been appropriated.

There are seven schools upon Royal foundations in Ireland,* enjoying an income of 5426*l.* per annum; a sum which, if it were free, would be amply sufficient not only to provide for the maintenance of schools in each of the places in which the Royal charters originally intended they should be established, but to found a great school in Ireland on a plan similar to that on which the great schools in England are founded. By a reference to the First Report of the Board of Education, it will be seen that the lands of two of these schools are let on trust-leases for the benefit of the masters, which leases will not expire in less than twenty-one years.

The revenues of the school of Enniskillen, which produce 1461*l.* per annum, and would produce 2000*l.* per annum; those of the school of Raphoe, which produce 639*l.* per annum; those of the school of Banagher, which produce 165*l.* per annum; those of the school of Carysfort, which produce 100*l.* per annum; although the lands are not let on trust-leases for the benefit of the schoolmasters, as those of Armagh and of Dungannon, belong to the schoolmasters, and the present holders of the schools could not be deprived of any part of the emolument which they derive from them without receiving some compensation. The revenues of the school of Cavan, which amount to 536*l.* per annum, and might be 900*l.* per annum, are appropriated as follows: viz. 300*l.* to the master, 100*l.* to an usher, and the remainder, and the arrears of rent at the time the

* Armagh	£1043
Dungannon	1481
Enniskillen	1461
Raphoe	639
Cavan	537
Banagher	165
Carysfort	100
	£5426

present master was appointed, to form a fund to build a school-house at Cavan; so that this fund at Cavan, now amounting to 136*l.* per annum, and which may rise to 500*l.* per annum, and any rise there may be in the rents of the schools of Enniskillen, Raphoe, Banagher, and Cavan, constitute the whole fund applicable to defray the expense of any improvement of the system on which the schools of Royal foundation are conducted.

Besides these schools upon Royal foundations, there are two others upon which the Board of Education have reported: those of Navan and Ballyroan, upon the foundation of a legacy of the late Alderman Preston of the city of Dublin.

The revenues of the lands of these schools produce 1465*l.* per annum on a lease for twenty-one years. The expenses of the schools are 465*l.* per annum, and there is a clear surplus of 1000*l.* per annum. This surplus may certainly become the subject, and may afford the means, of salutary regulation; but it is obvious that it must be applicable solely to the schools of Navan and Ballyroan.

From this state of the funds of the schools of Royal foundation, it is obvious that our views must for the present be confined to measures to ensure the application of the funds of the schools to the purposes of education only, to a general superintendence of the whole management of the schools, and to the establishment of a connection between the schools of Royal foundation, and even Alderman Preston's schools and the University, upon the plan of the connection between the great schools and the Universities in England, to be carried into execution gradually, as the funds applicable to education in Ireland will be liberated.

First, a Board ought to be established in Ireland, consisting of the four Archbishops, the Chancellor and Chief Judges, the Provost and Vice-Provost of Trinity College, the Chief Secretary of the Lord-Lieutenant, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lords of the Treasury, Commander-in-Chief, the Earl of Ludlow, Lord Tara, the representatives or trustees of Erasmus Smith, the Earl of Ormond, the Marquess of Donegal, and the representatives of any individuals who have left funds for the establishment of a school in Ireland, to whose control and superintendence shall be referred all matters relating to the management of the schools of Royal or private foundation. The Board to have a

secretary and treasurer and accountant in one person, with a salary of * , to be appointed by the Lord Lieutenant.

All matters relating to the funds belonging to these foundations to be decided by this Board, excepting questions of right of property.

This Board not to interfere in the right of nomination of masters to the schools, but to have the power of removing from his office any schoolmaster ; and in case another should not be appointed within * , the Board to have the power to appoint.

They shall have the power to visit themselves, or to appoint visitors of the different schools of Royal or private foundation.

They shall have the power to let the estates of the schools for any term of years not exceeding thirty, without fine, and no renewal to be made till within * years of the expiration of the current lease.

They shall have power to borrow money upon the securities of any of the estates of the schools of Royal foundation for the purpose of raising funds for building or repairing school-houses.

They shall have the same powers in respect to the estates belonging to schools of private foundation ; but the produce of the loans on these estates to be laid out solely on the schools to the support of which the funds are applicable.

That this Board shall have the power of fixing the salaries for schoolmasters, under schoolmasters, and ushers of the different schools of Royal and private foundation.

That no schoolmaster shall receive a larger salary than 300*l.* per annum.

No under-schoolmaster a larger salary than 200*l.* per annum.

No usher a larger salary than 100*l.* per annum, with board and lodging.

That the overplus of the funds belonging to all the schools of Royal foundation and to the schools of individual private foundation respectively, after paying the salaries of masters and the interest of money borrowed for building or repairing school-houses, shall be applied, those belonging to the Royal foundations, to the establishment in any school of Royal foundation which the Board of Superintendence shall select of a house for the board and lodging of * poor scholars, to be called

* Blank in manuscript.

Scholars of the House, who shall receive their education in the school gratis ; secondly, to the establishment in the University of studentships.

Those funds belonging to the schools of private foundation shall be applied in like manner, but must be spent upon the schools to which the funds belong.

If it be thought advisable, the mode of selecting persons to be Scholars of the House may be defined, as well as that of electing persons from the schools of Royal or private foundation to fill the studentships in the University. The age ought likewise to be defined at which the scholars who should not be elected students should be obliged to quit the school, as well as the length of time which a student might hold his studentship in the University.

It is obvious that a length of time must elapse before the funds of the schools will afford the expense of these arrangements, and it is possible that it may be most expedient to leave the detail of them to the management of the Board rather than to settle them by Act of Parliament.

I have preferred to have *Scholars of the House* boarded and lodged gratis, rather than what are called *Free Scholars*. The former would, by their education and the advantages of the studentships in the University, be raised from the lowest classes of the people, and might become useful members of society. As Free scholars, they would receive a kind of half-education, which would probably render them worse members of that class of society to which they might belong than if they received none.

It will be observed that the efficiency of this system would depend in a great degree upon the Secretary to be appointed to the Board ; but, with a good Secretary, I have no doubt that a sufficient number of the members of the Board would attend to the affairs of the schools enough to render their superintendence highly beneficial.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lieutenant-Colonel O'Dell.

[254.]

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 24th Dec., 1807.

I have received your letter of the 22nd instant, and I am much concerned upon the occurrence of the event which you

have stated in it. It is usual for the Commander of the Forces to give leave of absence to an officer who desires it with a view to attend Parliament; but no officer can absent himself from his corps without leave without making himself liable to the disgrace and punishment which the Mutiny Act and Articles of War have awarded for that crime.

If the duties of Parliament and the duties of an officer are incompatible and inconsistent with each other, it is in the power of a gentleman to resign either the one or the other; but no army can exist for a moment under the notion that an officer can quit his corps without leave, even to attend his duty in Parliament.

Under these circumstances, I recommend you to make a suitable apology to the Commander of the Forces, and I doubt not that he will then be induced to give you the leave of absence which you require, and to release you from your arrest.

I cannot interfere in the business in any manner.

Ever, dear Sir, yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[255.]

To the Earl of Westmeath.

MY DEAR WESTMEATH,

Dublin Castle, 24th Dec., 1807.

You have not sent me Governor Nugent's letter, but, from what you state, I suspect it refers to the titles of estates, which we intend to quiet in the next session of Parliament.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[256.]

*To the Right Hon. Denis Browne.**

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 24th Dec., 1807.

We want you in Connaught and in Westminster, but I hope most in the former. I wish therefore that you would not come away till you will hear further from me, and I will not call you away till I shall find it absolutely necessary.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* M.P. for the county Mayo, and a Member of the Irish Privy Council.

To R. S. Tighe, Esq.

[257.]

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 25th Dec., 1807.

I have received your letter of the * December, for which I am very much obliged to you. Any thing from a gentleman so well informed as you are, on the interests, manners, habits, and wants of the people of this country, must be highly interesting to the person filling the office which I have the honour to hold; but more particularly when it contains his opinions on the objects which require further legislative provisions, and which ought to be brought under discussion in Parliament. The subjects to which you have adverted in your letter are so numerous, so various, and, at the same time, so important to the vital interests of this country, that although they have had, and shall continue to have, all the attention which it is in my power to bestow upon them, I cannot pretend to discuss them in a letter.

All that I shall now say upon them generally is, that Ireland is not a country on which the experiment of sudden and rapid reforms of abuses can be tried. However enormous the latter may be, they are too inveterate and of too long standing to bear the sudden application of the former; but I know that neither the abuses which exist, nor the reforms which can be applied to them, have been lost sight of since I have been in this country.

I trust that something has been done already, and I hope that more will be done by degrees, to place this country in the situation in which its best friends could wish it to be.

In respect to its defence, that branch of its administration has naturally had much of my attention; and I trust that the country will be found in a state to resist with success any attack which may be made upon it.

Ever, &c.;

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

R. S. Tighe, Esq., to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR,

Mitchelstown,* Dec., 1807.

Without knowing how you may relish any more of my essays, and only requesting you to be assured that with respect to you personally I can

* Blank in manuscript.

mean nothing that is not expressive of the respect and esteem your character is calculated to inspire, I shall trouble you again, and perhaps not for the last time, on the state of this country. I have so little the honour of being known to you, that I may perhaps appear to you in the light of an intrigant, or at best under the influence of an ill-timed, ill-digested enthusiasm. In my own eyes I seem to be merely guided by that interest which it is natural to feel, even upon the most selfish principle, in the state of a country in which my family possesses a large and its only stake. Whatever may be my conviction in favour of particular measures, or my attachment to those public men who may appear most likely to adopt them, such opinions or feelings can, I trust, never lead me to derive satisfaction from anything that can thwart or impede the public service or the course of measures necessary for our defence because that defence is entrusted to men from whom I may differ on any the most interesting point. It has ever been my politics that Ireland, as an Opposition question, can only be an instrument of party. I do not think that any measure can be usefully brought forward for us except by the servants of the Crown; and though I certainly think that constitutional means may and ought to be resorted to to call the attention of the servants of the Crown to measures of evident necessity or utility for Ireland, I never wish to see them merely an engine for the party hostility of any set of men against another. It is with these principles that I venture to ask, not expecting an answer, but merely as introductory questions:

1st. Have His Majesty's Ministers in contemplation to bring forward in the approaching session of Parliament any measures bearing upon the state of Ireland?

2nd. Or is it intended to proceed upon the supposition that all is right? that nothing requires legislative interference? or that it is impolitic to agitate any question of that nature, that is, of Reform, in any way at the present crisis?

Without, as I said, presuming to expect an answer to these queries, I shall trouble you with the sentiments they give rise to in my mind; and I shall begin by the last point in the queries, the policy or prudence of agitating such discussions at present. On this I shall only say, that I believe there never has been or ever will be an opposition party which will not on this point act and reason diametrically opposite to the Ministers of the day. The wisdom and force of the principle of not agitating such matters must then, I think, depend upon what can be made to appear to be the real state of things in Ireland. I shall put out of the question entirely at present that most important of all measures vulgarly called Catholic Emancipation. Its danger or its benefits must certainly be matter of speculation; and it would be presumptuous perhaps, and certainly both irksome and fruitless, to attempt any argument if we differ upon it. I shall, therefore, confine myself to what I call facts; a term I give them because I think that I could give substantial proof of their existence at any bar:

1st. Tithes do require consideration, and are, if not a general, certainly a partial and local grievance. I will never join in any senseless cry against the clergy; they are moderate in their demands, and their existence in a state of affluence and respect I hold to be essential to the maintenance

of our constitution; and I believe many who clamour loudest against them will clamour against the modification they call for when they find that what is given up in one place must be made good in another. Still it is a grievance that the peasantry in one county should see large tracts of the richest land in the richest hand paying no tithe, and those potato gardens from which they eat their daily meals all paying high, in order to make up the deficiency of the tithe of agistment; whilst in the adjoining county no tithe is levied on the potato crops or other articles of prime necessity to the poor. Such an unequal distribution of the burthen must be even more irritating than burthensome.

2ndly. The local system of taxation is so perverted, often with the tacit concurrence or neglect of the judges in abandoning their power and duty of check over grand jury presentments, as to have become oppressive to the landholders; and applied, as it often is, to the purposes of patronage in a regular succession from the nomination of the sheriff through all the public officers of the counties, the money of the landholders is given contrary to law; and the opinions of the people on the impartial administration of justice, on the security of their rights as freeholders, and on the safety and proper application of the money thus raised upon them, are all shaken, and justly so.

3rdly. The peasantry of the country less connected with the State upon any beneficial principles than in any other country in the world. Their education neglected where attention to education is prescribed by the most evident policy, whilst bigotry the most *papistical* has prevailed in some of our most prominent legislative institutions. The Protestant population of the country gradually absorbing for want of that aid which it would be praiseworthy to grant, which might be granted without exciting a suspicion or a murmur.

4thly. After I may say fourteen years of warning of the prospect and dangers of invasion, and at a moment when those dangers are tenfold, there is no trace of any plan or system for combining the whole or part of the people in aid of the defensive measures of government. I beg, my dear Sir, that I may not be misunderstood in this. I believe His Majesty's present Ministers are as well disposed and as capable of an useful application of the public force against the enemy as the country could wish them to be. I have full confidence in the number and distribution of His Majesty's naval and military force. I allude not to them; but I do think that it would not be difficult to frame, and that it would be useful to frame, some plan by which the well-disposed subjects of His Majesty in Ireland might be enabled in time of need to lend useful aid to His Majesty's forces; not as they now must be found, running against one another in all the confusion and danger of a state of ignorance of what they ought to do. I do think that it would not by any means be impossible to frame a system of co-operation between the inhabitants at large and His Majesty's forces, which would give confidence to the well-disposed, increase their number, and give to us much assistance, which will otherwise, I fear, be applied to the use of the enemy. A Defence Act was passed a few years since, and in some places for a time attempted to be carried into effect. Though it might have been more perfect, the possible utility of it was evident to whoever observed how it could be brought to bear. Where

is there now any trace of it? Where are the returns and documents of the different meetings? All, I believe, gone with the returns of the different Courts of Lieutenancy, which for fifteen years past ought to have been tending to enable us to carry effectually and impartially the militia laws into effect, but which have vanished, and left us in as much darkness as if they had never existed; and I believe we may say the same of the returns under the Defence Act.

5thly. A modification of the powers of the constitution of the magistracy of the country is required, which shall rescue the people from a capricious and ignorant administration of the laws, and give to government and the laws the solid, constant, and vigorous co-operation of the civil power in the hands of the ordinary magistrates, in all of which the present system is and must be defective, though in my humble opinion not difficult to remedy.

Now, my dear Sir, if these are facts, and I am willing to undertake to prove to you any you may be inclined to doubt, do you conceive it useful or necessary to leave them as they are, or would it not be as useful as it would be becoming for His Majesty's servants in Ireland to originate the amendment? Upon the mode of doing so I do not pretend to suggest an opinion. I shall only say that precipitation in applying the remedy does not appear to me to be called for: better do it well than hastily. But it must be useful to evince a knowledge of the evil and a disposition to amend. Some portions of the evil require only the interference of the executive government, but I beg leave to submit to your consideration the advantages or disadvantages of the state of Ireland being referred to a committee of the House of Commons. Have not the ears of the nation been stunned year after year and for years with lamentations of the state of Ireland, of which many of those that clamour and of those who listen are in perfect ignorance? Will you not hear the same from the first to the last day of next session? and where can be the mischief, where the risk of referring the state of Ireland to a committee of the House of Commons, or of both Houses, to examine and report upon what can be remedied? What can be done to improve or to preserve, and when? I do not think that government, or those Ministers who administer that government, can have any reason to apprehend any mischief from meeting in a firm and temperate manner the state of this country; and it must be met sooner or later; it can only be preserved as it now is by temporary expedients. I do not pretend to say when it will be forced upon the attention of Ministers and Parliament; but sure I am that time will come, and the Administration upon whom it is unwillingly forced must sink under it.

The time for the meeting of Parliament approaches. Perhaps it ought to be presumed that the circumstances referred to in this letter, and all others connected with the welfare of Ireland, have attracted the attention of His Majesty's Ministers; and perhaps some valid reasons exist for leaving things as they are. This may be so; but we cannot be surprised, though we may lament, if, instead of being taken up usefully by the servants of the Crown, they are left to be taken up by those in whose hands they must be productive of great agitation, though ultimately they may be remedied. These and other evils have so long escaped the attention of successive governments in this country, that one might be disposed to

doubt their existence; and yet they are as susceptible of proof as any fact can be. It will be for you and others who are your colleagues in situations which best enable you to form a judgment on the subject, to attach to it the degree of importance such a state of things ought to obtain. To me they appear to be precisely of the most important nature; they occur in the ordinary and common course of the transactions and habits of the people, and therefore speak much more directly to their feelings than great political questions. They are not speculative evils, but gross practical abuses or neglect, inspiring disgust wherever they are seen and felt, and not profited by. They ought to be cured by an English administration, for they do not subsist in England, and it is utterly impossible to assign any one good reason for tolerating them here, yet tolerated they have been under every possible point of view in which a country can be placed: in time of profound peace; in war; during the effervescence of patriotism; in time of rebellion; when rebellion has been suppressed by a mixture of severity and lenity; when it has again been dreaded; when the enemy has been on our coast, and again expected. At no one period that I can remember have the cares of government or the attention of the Legislature been directed to those measures which might loosen the hold of agitators over the mass of our people, or prevent our peasantry from being made, as they are ever ready to be, the best tools of every enemy or disturber of the country. This, my dear Sir, I am ready to admit may to some ears sound as declamation; and I know many men who have lived all their lives in Ireland with their eyes and their ears open who would call it so, and deny the grounds of it; yet they are true, and justly stated; and so long as effects naturally flow from causes, so long under the present system must the people of Ireland be a source of mistrust to England, and its state be that of constant, though in degree varying, agitation and disquiet.

I am, my dear Sir, with sincere respect and esteem,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. TIGHE.

To the Lord Bishop of Limerick.

[258.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 25th Dec., 1807.

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 20th, to which I can only answer that the public have a right to my services whenever and wherever it can be thought they will be useful. But I believe that your son has imbibed more of the partiality of the Indian world for me than I deserve.

You will be glad to hear that we are getting the better of the disturbances in Limerick and Tipperary; and I have great hopes that we shall give the finishing blow to them by seizing the persons of those who robbed you, and are at the head of all that is desperate in the south of Ireland.

I will attend to your Dean. Depend upon it the Duke of Richmond will not give you an improper person.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[259.]

To the Earl of Westmeath.

MY DEAR WESTMEATH,

Dublin Castle, 25th Dec., 1807.

I received Governor Nugent's letter after I had despatched my letter to you yesterday. The Church have a common law right to tithes, and wherever they claim from a lay impropiator they put him upon the proof of his title. The law which we intend to propose will go to quiet the titles of those, in possession of forfeited estates against the right of the Crown where they have had possession beyond a certain term of years, but it will be impossible to extend this law to lay impropiators without interfering with the common law rights of the Church.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Earl of Westmeath to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR ARTHUR,

Clonin, 23rd Dec., 1807.

I send you the enclosed letter which I have just received from my kinsman Governor Nugent. I think the subject of it is at this moment peculiarly worthy the attention of the government, I mean so far as the propriety of proposing an Act of Parliament for the purposes therein mentioned. If you think as I do, you will, of course, submit it to the Crown lawyers for their opinion. A considerable property in Ireland is (and has been for upwards of two centuries) held under similar grants from the Crown; and if these grants are now to be questioned, and particularly in a moment like the present, there is no knowing what the consequence of it may be. I am sure you will not be displeased at my troubling you upon a subject which I own is of most material importance to my private interest, but which I conceive to be also of most urgent concern to the public.

Believe me, my dear Arthur,

Most sincerely yours,

WESTMEATH.

[ENCLOSURE.]

General Nugent to the Earl of Westmeath.

MY VERY DEAR LORD,

Eccles Street, Dublin, 22nd Dec., 1807.

I would when in Westmeath have gone to embrace you, but was prevented by the bad weather, having no close carriage with me. I am glad to hear from

Lord Delvin that your Lordship, Lady Westmeath, and family are well. I think it right to inform your Lordship that the Rev. Mr. Richard Winne, lately appointed to one of the inappropriate tithe parishes, the tithes of which belong to me and have been in our possession nearly two hundred years, ever since James the First's reign, yet he thinks he can do away the tithe, and that he, as incumbent, has the right of the tithes in him, and says he has taken advice, and in consequence is proceeding. He has not given me the smallest uneasiness, as I think many of his predecessors would have attempted to do the same if they had any foundation to go upon. His plea is upon the Nullum Tempus Act occurrit Rege vel Iglesia. The former incumbent, Collingham, who was as scrutinizing and equally greedy, would, if he saw the smallest opening, attempt the same. However, as your Lordship has a considerable property of the same nature, I believe you will think it proper to endeavour to procure an Act of Parliament passed to quiet the proprietors of inappropriate tithes in this kingdom in their possessions.

I remain, my very dear Lord, with most affectionate respects to Lady Westmeath and all your family indiscriminately,

Your Lordship's most affectionate and faithful humble-servant,

JOHN NUGENT.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[260.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

Dublin Castle, 27th Dec., 1807.

The assizes of Tipperary and Limerick, at which the prisoners would be tried in the ordinary course, will be in April; the Law Term in Dublin, in which, of course, they would not be tried, will commence in the middle of January and will end in the middle of February. The question was, whether a special commission for the trial of these prisoners should be sent down immediately, or after the next Law Term in Dublin; for it cannot go during the Law Term, on account of the inconvenience which would result from the absence of the Judges at that period. The Crown lawyers have preferred to delay the commission till after the Law Term (the middle of February), because there are only four prisoners at Clonmel whom it will be possible to convict capitally, and none at Limerick; and although the cases are very strong and clear, it is apprehended that, if the jury should be prejudiced on the other side, the men would be acquitted. The Sheriff is of that party in the county which has an interest in representing it as perfectly quiet, and it is believed that he would return a jury which would be disposed to acquit the prisoners. The new Sheriff will be appointed in the end of January.

Upon the whole, you will see from this statement that the

prisoners would not be tried, in the ordinary course, till April or May ; that it would be imprudent to send a commission down at present ; and that the earliest time at which it will be possible to send it, consistently with prudence, will be in the middle of February.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Chancellor and I went out yesterday ; but we saw only two brace, and the day turned out so bad that we were obliged to return at one o'clock.

[261.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 27th Dec., 1807.

I have received your letter of the 23rd respecting the inquiry into Maynooth. Mr. Perceval is right as to the number of visitors ; I totally forgot the three Roman Catholic trustees, who are likewise visitors ; and I agree with him in thinking not only that these as well as the other visitors must be ordered to make this special visitation, but that the more regular mode of conveying the Lord Lieutenant's commands would be by warrant, in which the general objects of the visitation will be stated. Under the general heads stated in the warrant, the visitors will be able to put such questions as they may think proper, and the Chancellor shall have a list of the questions which Mr. Perceval is desirous should be asked.

The warrant, however, as at present drawn out, will contain nothing respecting inquiries into religious discipline or education. Since I received your letter I have not had time to consult the common lawyers ; but it appears to me that the intention of the legislature, manifested in the 8th clause of the Act of the 40th of the King, was to preclude the Lord-Lieutenant from taking any cognizance of the bye-laws, rules, or regulations affecting the exercise of the Roman Catholic religion, &c. &c., and it would be inconsistent with the spirit of that law that he should by warrant direct the visitors to inquire into matters of which it precluded him from having any cognizance. The Roman Catholic visitors may, if they choose, inquire into these matters, and the others may, if they think fit, be present at this inquiry ; but I conceive that it cannot originate in the Lord-Lieutenant's

warrant. However, if I should find that I am mistaken upon this point, or if you or Mr. Perceval should be desirous that the visitors should be directed to inquire into matters of religion, the warrant shall contain a clause accordingly.

It is very possible, as stated by Mr. Perceval, that the result of this visitation may not give him grounds on which he will think himself able to oppose the continuance of the enlarged grant to this institution; and it is possible that the preferable mode of inquiring, considering the reasons for which any inquiry is made, would be for me to inquire from the President of the College, in which mode many more topics of inquiry, although not relating to religious discipline, might be introduced. The advantage which will be derived from using the visitors is, that the inquiry will be more public; and it is not impossible that some abuses may come to light which might remain concealed notwithstanding any private inquiries, and the general discipline of the institution will probably be improved. However, I beg you to consider of these different modes of conducting our inquiry, and decide which shall be adopted. Although a visitation was mentioned in the debate upon this subject by Foster or by Newport, I don't recollect that any promise was given that one should be made.

Mr. Perceval has not adverted to or has forgotten what I have written to him and to you upon this subject, if he supposes that we have not made private inquiries upon it. I now enclose you a letter which has been received from Dr. Dunne, late President of the College, which affords information which alone would, in my opinion, justify a refusal to give the enlarged grant. It appears from these papers that 111 priests are educated in Ireland by private means, besides 200 at Maynooth. These, upon an education of five years, would afford an annual supply of 60, at least, to keep up the numbers of a priesthood, consisting of 2400 at most, and would fully answer the purpose, according to the usual calculation of the duration of the lives of persons of their age.

Besides the information contained in Dr. Dunne's letters, which I beg you to return, for we have no copies of them, I have an accurate account of all the principals and professors of the College, who are all men of fair character and good principles, and I have reason to believe, from the accounts I have received, that they have no concern in the Lay College.

I beg to have your instructions upon the line which I am to pursue on the following point: Do you wish that I should endeavour to prevail upon the heads of the Roman Catholics to consent to a more active control over the affairs of the College of Maynooth, whether the additional grant is to be continued or not? For, conceiving from the memorandum which you gave me when I was in England, that you wished to introduce some provision for a more effectual control, as a condition upon which the enlarged grant would be made, and having reason, as I have above shown, to believe that grounds would be afforded by the inquiry to refuse the enlarged grant, I have hitherto taken no steps whatever to ascertain their sentiments upon this point.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[262.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

Dublin Castle, 28th Dec., 1807.

I send you different papers, with notes upon them; also a letter which I have received from Lord Hawkesbury, which I beg you to return. You will observe what he says about arresting the disaffected. This plan would certainly not answer our purpose; but the lists shall be prepared as he desires.

I don't know anything of Mr. John Miller. Trail says you might give 50*l.* as a subscription for building this chapel; but these subscriptions are so numerous, and would fall so heavily upon you, that I am inclined to think you had best send no answer.

The Duchess can give nothing to this convent, which exists contrary to law, and she should either send no answer, or one stating that it is not in her power to point out the mode in which the ladies of the convent can obtain the renewal of their lease, or the property of other land.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[ENCLOSURE.]

Lord Hawkesbury to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR WELLESLEY,

Whitehall, 23rd Dec., 1807.

I send you enclosed the papers relative to Maynooth College, with Perceval's observations upon them. I confess I very much agree with him

respecting the impolicy of increasing that establishment; but what has been once voted, I think it would be very difficult to persuade Parliament to rescind, unless the persons who are at the head of that establishment should decline altogether acceding to any reasonable regulations for the government of it. The inquiry is, however, that to which we are committed; and it is upon the result of it that we must determine what course it will be most proper to take on this subject in Parliament.

I will direct the opinion of Perceval and Sutton on the subject of martial law to be looked for, and when it is found, a copy of it shall be transmitted to you.

I have read with great satisfaction your military observations, and you shall hear from me very shortly more at length upon the subject. There can be no doubt of the expediency, in the event of a French force landing in Ireland, of proclaiming martial law, and of securing the persons of those who are suspected upon *strong grounds* of disaffection to the government. It would be very desirable, with a view to giving effect to such a measure, that a list should be made out of the disaffected, with the different grounds and degrees of suspicion set forth against the name of each individual. By this means you would be prepared for the execution of the measure, and it might be carried into effect upon a more or less extensive scale, according to the degree of the danger or the nature of the attack.

I wrote to the Duke of Richmond yesterday to desire he would detain the troops from South America, which are arrived at Cork: this arrangement will, I trust, make you sufficiently strong in the south of Ireland, particularly as the spirit of disaffection which prevailed in Tipperary and Limerick appears by the last accounts to have in a great degree subsided. Our apprehensions of any serious attack upon Ireland are considerably diminished in consequence of the fortunate issue of our affairs in Portugal. The capture of the Danish and the safety of the Portuguese fleet limit most essentially the powers of our enemies. The French have at present only seven sail-of-the-line in Brest *ready* for sea, one in l'Orient, and six in Rochefort. There are in Cadiz eleven sail-of-the-line, Spanish and French; but they are blockaded by an adequate force, and the blockade of Cadiz is capable of being made much more effectual than that of any other port. The Russian fleet in the Tagus is, according to all accounts, in such a state as to be more fit for firewood than for any other purpose. The naval equipments in the Scheld go on with most activity, and are upon the largest scale; but even if they were complete, the situation of the Scheld renders them more formidable to England than to Ireland. In short, our situation is very much improved from what it was at the close of the session of Parliament. I hope you will be able to secure a good attendance of Irish in both Houses on the first day of the session. We hear Lord Grenville is to be very violent.

Believe me to be, my dear Wellesley,

Ever sincerely yours,

HAWKESBURY.

[263.]

To the Earl of Limerick.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 28th Dec., 1807.

I might have expected that the old friendship which your Lordship has noticed in your letter of the 23rd instant might have saved me the pain of receiving such a one from you, and of answering it. But it appears that any story, however improbable, when it relates to a man in office, is to be believed; and no allowance is to be made for the unintentional misrepresentations of a disappointed candidate for office of the purport of his communications with the person through whose means he supposes that he has met with his disappointment.

In order to save your time, and myself as much as I can of the disagreeable sensation which I feel upon writing to you upon such a subject, I shall confine myself to a strict contradiction of Mr. ———'s account of what passed in his late interview with me. I told him that there was no vacancy in an office of Commissioner of Appeals or of Assistant-Barrister, nor any immediate prospect of a vacancy; and after some conversation upon the deficiency of means to provide for those who should resign their offices of Commissioner of Appeals, Mr. ——— proposed that he should be permitted to open a negotiation with the Assistant-Barrister of the county of Wexford, who he had reason to believe would resign, and that he, Mr. ———, might be appointed to succeed him. I told him that I could not hold out to him an expectation that he should succeed to the office of Assistant-Barrister in the county of Wexford, and I explained to him as far as I thought it necessary, and it is evident that he did not misunderstand me, that there were certain counties in Ireland in which certain of the friends of government had, at large expense and trouble to themselves, acquired an influence which not only gave them the return of members to serve in Parliament, but raised the militia and other forces, and preserved the peace in such counties; and that government considered that it disposed of its patronage in the manner which was most advantageous to the public by leaving that which fell in such counties to those who had this commanding influence: that Wexford was one of these counties. Mr. ——— then said that he believed such arrangements as he had proposed had been made before. I said that I could not be a party to one in a county in which there existed such an influence from property or other causes as existed in the county of Wexford.

Mr. ——— then departed, apparently not well pleased. Is there in this conversation one word on my part that is unjust, unreasonable, or inconsistent with the contents of the letter which I had written to Mr. ———, by desire of the Lord-Lieutenant?

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Earl of Limerick to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,

Ramsgate, 23rd Dec., 1807.

I do not think that in my life I ever was more deeply mortified than by the account I have this day received from my particular friend Mr. ———, of the result of an interview he had the honour to have with you on the 17th of November last.

I am strongly inclined to think that Mr. ——— must have misunderstood you, and that you did not mean to convey to him "That there was nothing in the civil department, either vacant or likely to be so, to which he (Mr. ———) could expect to be appointed," and that on his mentioning the situation of assistant-barrister, and the possibility of effecting an exchange on certain terms, that you said "that not only in that particular, then or now, he could not be gratified, but that in all cases of vacancy or appointment such offices were reserved for those who were recommended by those persons possessed of local influence."

So then I am to understand that the present government of Ireland conceives I have no local influence. Lord Cornwallis, when Lord Lieutenant, was not of that opinion, he having given me the whole patronage of the city of Limerick, and a considerable part of that of the county.

I can guess from whom the Irish administration has derived their information as to my influence. I will, however, venture to assert that ere long I will prove that the information they have received is not correct, and that I shall be able to show that my influence, from friendship, connexion, and from being possessed of by far the largest fortune (Lord Courtenay's excepted) in that part of the country, is not to be despised. Surely your letter to Mr. ——— of the 4th of May, 1807, must have escaped your recollection. I have it now before me. The following is the concluding paragraph:—

"I laid before his Grace the Lord-Lieutenant your wishes to be an assistant-barrister, and his Grace has desired me to express his inclination to do what will be agreeable to Lord Limerick, and to appoint you to one of those situations when he shall have it in his power consistently with his other engagements."

On your first appointment to office I asked you in the most pressing manner, as one of my oldest and most valued friends, to provide adequately for my particular friend Mr. ———. You promised me it should be done.

I now, my dear Sir Arthur, earnestly, most earnestly, press this request upon you. Surely it is not too much to expect (leaving all motives of private friendship out of the question), considering the situation I have held, and which I will shortly show I do not mean to relinquish in Ireland.

• But independent of all this, surely my services and attachment to the present ministers, my loss of office, &c., demand some attention. I know the opinion of the cabinet upon my subject, and you can easily satisfy yourself whether I am mistaken or not.

I wish, however, to owe my friend's appointment entirely to you. Pray fix upon some precise object for him, as otherwise engagements will be made to prevent your doing anything for him.

Believe me, my dear Sir Arthur,

Very sincerely and faithfully yours,

LIMERICK.

[264.]

To Stephen Dickson, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 28th Dec., 1807.

I have received your letter of the 26th instant, and I have no doubt whatever that it is necessary to confine ——— in Limerick gaol. If you should have reason to believe that he is not in security there, or if the party of the ——— should endeavour to frighten or tamper with him, or if you should see any good reason and will state it to me, orders will be sent to have him removed to Dublin; but in the mean time he must be committed for a capital offence.

I think you will do well to continue the care of the woman; and it is very possible that, if she has been prevailed upon to swear this vindictive examination against ——— by any of the ———, which I think very probable, she will let it out. Who is the ——— the magistrate who has taken her examination?

In respect to your advertisement in the Limerick papers, it does not exactly answer the object which I had in view when I wrote to General Mitchell; but it will have a good effect, and I am much obliged to you for your zealous exertions to restore the peace. However, as there are many people ready to misrepresent publications of this description, in order to raise a cry against government, I think it would be desirable that, before you publish any of these formal advertisements in future, in which you refer to communications with government, you should send them here for perusal.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Brigade-Major Rogers.

[265.]

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 28th Dec., 1807.

I send you the copy of a letter which I have received from a gentleman, containing a description of one very suspicious character who resides in the county of Waterford, and an account that there is another. I shall be much obliged to you if you will endeavour to ascertain whether there are such persons as he mentions. If there are, and they should be foreigners, let them be seized and sent to Dublin as aliens. If they should be Englishmen, let them be arrested as *strangers*, under the Insurrection Act. I beg to hear from you upon this subject as soon as possible.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Montgomery.

[266.]

MY DEAR MONTGOMERY,

Dublin Castle, 30th Dec., 1807.

I am very sorry that you should feel the effect of any report circulated by Mr. Galbraith, for which he has no authority from government. But I must answer you upon that subject as Ari-toojah did Kirkpatrick when the latter complained that he was abused at Hyderabad: "I can give orders that the gates of the city may be shut, and I shall be obeyed; but I cannot shut people's mouths."

We have nothing to do with Lord Castlereagh and Lady Louisa Conolly, excepting that the Duke of Richmond told the latter that he would not interfere with the Donegal election. As for the former, his family have some estate and influence, I believe, in the county of Donegal; and it would be hard upon him to prevent him from disposing of it in the manner which would best suit his family in the north of Ireland. I doubt much the truth of the report that he has interfered with Lady Louisa Conolly.

I suspect that you must be mistaken respecting the Chancellor; but when I told you that this government would not interfere in the election, I did not and could not mean that none of the servants of the Crown should vote or give their interest to either party. All I meant was, that neither the Duke of Richmond nor I, nor anybody acting with our authority,

should interfere in any manner ; and I will defy anybody to show that we have interfered at all.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[267.]

To the Lord Bishop of Down.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 30th Dec., 1807.

I have received your letter of the 28th instant, for which I am much obliged to you.

I do not know in what way I can be of service to the old soldier whom you mention, unless by requesting your Lordship to give to him such sum of money on my account as you may judge proper, and to let me know the amount which you may give, in order that I may pay it into the hands of your Lordship's banker in Dublin, for which purpose I must beg that you will also let me know your banker's name.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[268.]

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 31st Dec., 1807.

In consequence of the discussions which took place in the House of Commons in the last session of parliament upon the proposition to augment the number of students at Maynooth from 200 to 400, it has been determined to inquire into the affairs of that institution, in order to be able to form a judgment of the necessity of the proposed increase. I shall be very much obliged to you if you can suggest any topics of inquiry which are likely to bring out the real state of the institution.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Bishop of Meath to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR SIR,

Ardbraccan House, 13th Jan., 1808.

I have been so much broken in upon, and so much engaged in temporary business, daily occurring, that I have not had time to throw together the ideas I had formed on the subject of the College of Maynooth till, probably, it will be too late for you to make any use of whatever information they may convey before you sail for England. I hope, however, that the detail I have entered into will be worth the trouble of your perusal, whenever you have leisure to read it, and that you may gain some additional insight from it into a business of very serious difficulty, and which it will require much firmness as well as much prudence and discretion to manage.

Mr. Perceval, before the change of administration, wished me to draw out for him some queries that might enable him to gain information for the House on the most material points on which it would be necessary to form a judgment previous to its consenting to the additional grant, or to the continuance of the establishment. I now submit them to you, which will answer the same purpose. They arose from the matter contained in the Observations, and you will judge of their propriety; and how far they may be calculated to answer the objects you may have in view. Some of the queries, you will see, are proposed to be answered by the visitors. The reason of my putting them in that way is that the visitors are recognised by the Acts of Parliament, which the Bishops, the proper authority to be referred to, are not, by them or by any law. The last query, although one of the most essential, may admit of more difficulty than the rest; but as it does not glance at any of their articles of faith, I think it ought to be insisted on.

I saw at Beauparc, yesterday, a new address of the Protestant nobility, clergy, and gentry of this county, on the subject of emancipation, which Mr. Winter sent to Lambert for his signature. It seems that Lord Headfort was set aside for incapacity, and that the pen taken from him was consigned to the eloquent, stern Tighe, as, probably, you already know. Lambert refused signing it, as it purported to be what it was not; for that nothing can be considered as an address of the description it assumes unless voted at a county meeting, properly convened, by the whole or by the majority. I presume that, on the same ground, you will not permit it to be received, should it be presented to Parliament.

I cannot get the clergy of this diocese to send me in their returns on the education queries. I wait to send them to you all together, but I have not as yet got one half of them.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Your very faithful and most obedient humble Servant,

T. L. MEATH.

[ENCLOSURES.]

Queries relative to the College of Maynooth.

The names of the president, professors, masters, fellows, and scholars on the foundation; of what country they are natives, and where they have received their education.

The amount of the salary allowed to the president, and to each of the professors, masters, and officers employed on the establishment.

The average expense to the establishment for the maintenance and table of the president, and all others employed in the direction, tuition, and management; as also of each of the students and scholars educated in the College, and what proportion of that expense these students and scholars pay out of their own pockets, or if they pay any.

What has been the greatest number in any one year of students or scholars in the College?

How many persons have left the College each year since its establishment? where have they settled, and how have they been employed?

The visitors required to know from the proper authority and report to the House whether any persons have been appointed to discharge any of the functions of a Roman Catholic clergyman in Ireland, since the establishment of the College of Maynooth, who have been educated in a foreign seminary; and if any such have been so employed, in what seminary have they been educated, and in what year they returned to Ireland to engage in the ministry?

The visitors to be required to know from the proper authority, and to report to the House, whether any person destined to discharge the functions of a Roman Catholic clergyman in Ireland has entered into a foreign seminary for the purpose of receiving his education, with the knowledge or under the authority of any of the heads of the Roman Catholic church in Ireland, since the establishment of the College of Maynooth.

The visitors to be required to gain information, and to state to the House, how the foreign seminaries established for the education of Irish Roman Catholic priests, and particularly the seminary in Rue Cheval Verd, under Dr. Walsh, in Paris, are now supplied with students.

The visitors required to know from the proper authority, and to state to the House, what seminaries, or schools, or colleges, besides that of Maynooth, for the education of Roman Catholic priests have been established or do now exist in Ireland; where they are situated, what is the number of students in each, how or from what funds are they subsisted.

An accurate list of all the bye-laws, rules, regulations, and statutes for the government and discipline of the College, made by the Board of Trustees from its establishment.

To know from the proper authority if all these bye-laws, rules, and regulations, except such as affect the exercise of the Roman Catholic religion, or the doctrine or discipline thereof, have been transcribed on parchment, signed by the president and secretary of the Board of Trustees, and lodged from time to time in the office of the chief secretary for the Lord Lieutenant's approbation, as required by the 40th Geo. III.

If the visitations appointed by the Act have been regularly held, and if any of the Protestant visitors have ever attended.

The names of the several professors, masters, and heads of the Lay-college, as it is called, at Maynooth; of what country they are natives, the amount of the salary of each, and out of what fund they are paid.

The greatest number of scholars educated in any one year in this College, and out of what general fund it is supported.

What donations have been given, and what legacies left to the College of Maynooth since its establishment.

What donations have been given, and what legacies left to the Lay-college, as it is called, at Maynooth since its establishment.

What method the different professors in the College of Maynooth pursue in delivering their several lectures; how their examinations are conducted, and at what periods are they held; and from what writers, casuists, and canonists do

the professors of morals, and of canon and civil law, extract the doctrines they teach in their schools, and employ as their authority.

Observations on the Management and Regulation of the College of Maynooth.

The great object which the promoters of the institution at Maynooth had in view was to make provision for educating the Roman Catholic clergy at home, and to overturn the system that was originally framed in the foreign seminaries for the purpose of having so powerful a body of men, in the very heart of the country, prejudiced against its constitution, disaffected to its government, and leagued against its establishment, and that no civil prejudices should be engrafted on their religious opinions.

It is more than probable that the heads of the Roman Catholic clergy would have never consented to such a measure had they not been driven to it by the consequences of the French Revolution destroying their seminaries throughout every part of the French dominions and in the Low Countries, and thus depriving them of all means of having an adequate supply for their mission, as they term it, conceiving Ireland to be, with respect to Rome, a foreign, heretical country. But whatever their motives and inducements were, the object of government was to remedy the evil resulting from the old system, of which the country had had such fatal experience for a long series of years.

The formation of that system and the establishment of foreign seminaries for the education of the Popish clergy, secular as well as regular, are to be traced to the gloomy and vindictive spirit of Philip the Second, instigated at once by bigotry and his hatred of England.

The first of these seminaries that forced itself into notice was that established at Douay by William Allen, an Oxford man, and one of the priests who were expelled from England in the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign. During the government of the Duke of Alva this seminary was the nursery of all the plots formed against the Queen's government. Don Louis de Requesons, successor to the Duke, having, among other measures which he adopted in opposition to the system of his predecessor, banished from the Low Countries all the English fugitives, the members of Douay College withdrew themselves, some to Rome, and some to Rheims, and they erected seminaries in both these places under the protection of the Pope and of the Cardinal of Loraine, then Archbishop of Rheims. In a short time similar institutions were established in various places in France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, the Low Countries, and Germany. They were chiefly filled with Irish, and the spirit of the original institution at Douay was preserved unextinguished in all these establishments, and gave its direction to the whole system of education adopted by their founders.

It was natural to expect that persons educated in such seminaries would imbibe a grateful attachment to countries that opened an asylum to them from the rigour of their own government, that deprived them of every means of instruction unless they renounced their religious principles. Received and cherished as sufferers for these principles, the leading persons amongst them had an easy access to the principal men in the countries in which they took refuge. They contracted habits of intimacy with them. They conceived a predilection for their forms of government as more analogous to their religion, and a consequent hatred of the laws and constitution of their native country. But, above all, they were trained to an implicit obedience and subserviency to the Pope, their principal protector and patron. This formed the basis of their theological studies, and this was the principle to which they bound themselves by all the vows they contracted when admitted to the priesthood.

Thus prepared they returned to the discharge of their ministerial functions

among those of their own persuasion, full of civil as well as religious prejudices and enmity. Their minds were alienated from all that could ensure their allegiance to the sovereign. They could feel no attachment to the constitution, no love of the laws; and hence they set up a jurisdiction of their own, which they exercised under the Papal authority, in violation of their allegiance, and in contempt of the laws. Nor was this the only evil. They had seen the state and grandeur in which the heads of their own church, with whom they had been acquainted abroad, were enabled to live: they had seen the rich benefices and ample revenues enjoyed by the inferior clergy, and the pomp and splendour with which their religious rites were performed. It was not, therefore, to be expected that they could be content with their own obscure situation at home, or the degraded state of their church; and as nothing but a total change of the constitution and government of the country could alter their condition, they formed a body of disaffection, to which the eyes of all her enemies, domestic and foreign, necessarily turned whenever circumstances encouraged them to disturb her peace or attempt a revolution; while, under a pretence of emigrating to pursue their studies, and to return home to labour in their mission, they kept up a constant intercourse with rebellious agitators at home, and hostile powers abroad.

It would argue a total ignorance of the history of this country from the days of Queen Elizabeth, not to know that such were the consequences that resulted from the establishment of these foreign seminaries whenever a favourable moment presented itself; and though, from the time that the revolution under King William broke the strength and spirits and extinguished the hopes of the Popish Pretenders to the throne, and of the emissaries of the Court of Rome, the evil has remained concealed, and no opportunity has been given to ripen those seeds of education into all the mischief of which they had been productive in former reigns, yet, while the same causes existed, and while the same system was pursued, it would be out of the course of nature and out of all the deductions of reason not to dread the same effects whenever a maturity of circumstances should expose us to the same danger from which Providence rescued these countries at the period alluded to.

By those who were intimately acquainted with the interior of Ireland no hopes could be entertained from any change in the great body of the people, over whom the priests exercise the Papal authority. Not a ray of that light that has led other nations to resist that authority, and reduce it within bounds, has reached this extreme western province of the Papal empire. To this day we may apply to them what Carte, the most moderate and liberal of our historians, says of them in his inquiry into the causes of their rebellion in 1641: "The Romish clergy possessed over the bulk of the Irish Papists an absolute power, the consequence of the ignorance, superstition, and bigotry that universally blinded them, and enabled their priests to lead and govern them at their pleasure." Who that has not some object in concealing the truth will not acknowledge that he recognises in this description the bulk of the Irish Papists of this day? or what more mortifying or degrading picture can be exhibited to the eye of true Christianity or enlightened reason than a Popish confession box and a Popish chapel in Ireland? What spiritual tyranny ever exceeded that which is there exercised over a trembling populace blinded by *ignorance, superstition; and bigotry?*

The fact is, the indisputable fact, that they have no religion but that of their priests. The priests are to them their Bible and their Gospel. It is their priests who hold the place of their Redeemer, and through whom alone they can have access to Him: it is they alone who can absolve them from their sins, or remit the punishment of them; in their hands is their salvation or their damnation. As long then as superstition continues to be that powerful engine

which even Buonaparte has been compelled to acknowledge it to be when he called in the Romish priesthood to support his usurpation, so long must it be the policy of every wise government, that has not the means of destroying it, to attend to the regulation of a body of men who direct that engine at will, as the Popish clergy in Ireland do.

How far these considerations ought, or ought not, to outweigh the objections of those who see nothing but danger in making a national provision for perpetuating such a body of men amongst us, and making the legislature a party in imposing this spiritual thralldom, destructive of all morality and pregnant with the greatest civil evil, on the great bulk of the people, is an argument that I will not enter into. But, at all events, it is obvious that even they who agree in the policy of the institution must admit that its great leading objects, such as they have been stated, should be constantly kept in view, and that nothing should be suffered, either in the constitution of the establishment, or in the management of it, that can have a tendency to defeat these objects. Supported by the government and the legislature directing the public liberality, it is obvious that a power must be acknowledged in the government and the legislature to watch over the manner of conducting it in every particular, and to see that the benefits which the public was to derive in return for its liberality should be secured, and the evils resulting from the system for which it has been substituted completely removed.

There certainly is a difficulty in devising the means by which the government of the country, while it provides for the education of the Roman Catholic clergy, can interfere without alarming the religious prejudices of the people, or how it can obtain such an inspection and control over the heads and the teachers of the College as may effectually prevent the imbibing of those prejudices, and the adoption and propagation of those doctrines and tenets, which, under the former system, produced all the distractions of this country since the Reformation. But if government be steady, and will not be deterred by the silly clamour artfully raised against all interference of a Protestant government and a Protestant legislature with the *doctrines* and *discipline* of a Roman Catholic seminary, the difficulty can be in great part removed. The Romish bishops and clergy have had no scruples to receive the boon from a Protestant legislature, a boon that no Roman Catholic legislature would ever grant to a Protestant clergy; and having had no such scruples, it would be preposterous in them to object to all public inspection or control over it, or to expect that the doctrines and discipline there inculcated shall be suffered to be wrapt up in the deepest mystery, without its ever being known how they may affect the civil power of the state, or whether they may not be as hostile to the constitution and the establishment, to the laws and the government of the country, as in the foreign seminaries.

The first material consideration that presents itself, in looking into the management of this College, is the appointment of the visitors and of the trustees for carrying into execution the Acts of Parliament authorising the institution and providing funds for it. These Acts are the 35th and 40th of Geo. III. By the latter as well as by the former, the Lord Chancellor or Keeper of the Great Seal of Ireland, the two Chief Justices, the Chief Baron, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for the time being, are appointed *visitors*, with Lord Fingall, the Popish Primate, and the Popish Archbishop of Dublin. But by Sect. 4, the Chancellor, the Chief Judges, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer are declared to be no longer trustees, as by Sect. 1 of 35 Geo. III. they were appointed to be.

Why this alteration was made it is not easy to conceive, unless from a very impolitic deference, in my opinion at least very impolitic, to the bigotry of the Popish bishops, and their anxiety to have the whole management of the

establishment exclusively in their own hands, and those of laymen implicitly subserfient to them, without any heretical obtruders; and a further reason for supposing this to have been their object, as well as a further proof of the impolitic deference of government, is, that the continuance of these great law officers, even as visitors, is rendered nugatory by Sect. 9, enacting that in all matters that relate to the exercise, doctrine, and discipline of the Roman Catholic religion, the visitatorial power over the said College shall be exercised exclusively by such of the said visitors as are or shall be of the Roman Catholic religion, in the presence of the Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, and of the Chief Judges, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, *if they or any of them shall think proper to attend.*

It appears to me to be necessary that the presence of one or more of these visitors should be an essential requisite in every visitation, and I would state as a reason, that they might take care that in all matters relating to the exercise, doctrine, and discipline of the Roman Catholic religion under the management of the College, nothing should be introduced, taught, maintained, or established, injurious to the civil power, or militating against the fundamental laws of the country in civil matters, or hostile to the *establishment*, or derogatory to the Royal prerogative such as it was maintained and asserted by His Majesty's predecessors of the Roman Catholic religion, before the Reformation, in the intercourse of their subjects with the see of Rome. As we tolerate the free and public exercise of their religion, we may yield so far to their prejudices as to have nothing to do with their articles of faith. But with their casuists and civilians, with what Dr. Geddes calls their *Transalpine doctrines*, of which, he says, *the University of Paris, abetted by the Parliament of France, and now and then supported by Royal edicts, stemmed the tide as often as the Papal workmen directed its course to Gaul*, we are very much concerned; and it is essential both for the safety of the State and for the franchises and liberty even of the Roman Catholic subjects of the King, that they should be strictly attended to.

By Sect. 10, it is enacted that on the death or resignation of any of the Popish visitors a successor is to be elected by the trustees or any seven of them. The appointment ought to be in the Lord Lieutenant, restricted to a Roman Catholic. By Sect. 2, it is enacted that the visitations should be triennial. I think that they should be annual, still reserving to the Lord Lieutenant the power of ordering additional visitations whenever he thought proper, as by Sect. 3.

Among the number of trustees for carrying into execution the Acts for instituting and managing the institution, it appears to me to be essential that there should be a mixture of Protestants—the four puisne Judges, or the Attorney and Solicitor General, or the Serjeants at Law, or the Masters in Chancery—and the presence of one or more of them should be essential to every Board; and instead of making the appointment to every vacancy in that Board elective in the trustees, it should be in the Lord Lieutenant, restricted, as in the case of the visitors, to appoint none but Roman Catholics, except the law officers above mentioned. Should the mode of election be continued, the Lord Lieutenant's approbation ought to be stipulated as in the case of the visitors.

By the 3rd Sect. of the 35th of Geo. III., the appointment of the president, masters, fellows, professors, and scholars on the foundation, and of all ministers, servants, and assistants, is made elective in the trustees, or any seven of them. The president, the professors, and masters, should be all appointed by the Lord Lieutenant, or at least the president, he nominating the professors and masters with the Lord Lieutenant's approbation; and an essential omission in both these Acts ought to be supplied by stipulating that the president, the

professors, the masters, the fellows, and the scholars on the foundation, and all officers and members of the College, should be His Majesty's natural born subjects, and not educated in any foreign university or seminary. This is the more essential as some of the present professors and masters are Frenchmen. The College has been established a sufficient length of time to supply the succession to these places.

In addition to the oath of allegiance of the 13th and 14th of His Majesty's reign, which every president, professor, and master is required to take, it should be enacted that the oath of allegiance prescribed to the president by Sect. 6 of the 40th Geo. III. should be taken by them all, with this addition, that the president will not suffer to be taught nor the professors teach any of those doctrines of canon or civil law, decretals, or constitutions, or briefs, or any thing that may be included in the term discipline, that have been forbidden by His Majesty's predecessors professing the Roman Catholic religion, and by the statutes passed under their respective reigns, or that may affect the personal liberty and franchises of His Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects. It is well known that since the reign of Queen Elizabeth to this day the Romish clergy exercise an imperium in imperio within this kingdom, and that as I have already said they have established a jurisdiction of their own which they exercise over persons of their persuasion under the authority of the Pope, and independent of the civil power. They give the force of law to all the canons and constitutions of their church, and to the Roman code. By this they regulate marriages, which they perform without any licence except from their own Vicars-General or priests appointed by them for that purpose. By this they pronounce divorces a mensâ et thoro, determine on legitimacy, and regulate inheritance among the middling and lower orders, and fulminate sentences of excommunication against persons transgressing any of the commandments or laws of their church, by which these persons are, to all intents and purposes, outlawed amongst those of their own persuasion, being interdicted ab aquâ et igne, and involving in their excommunication all who have any intercourse with them. There are many other abuses of a similar nature which escape the public eye. Sir John Throgmorton, in his last pamphlet, says that it was to be expected that whenever the question of emancipation should be again brought before Parliament, the Roman Catholic bishops and clergy would come forward and refute such charges as these, and prove them to be unfounded. They have not so come forward, nor will they, for they cannot disprove them.

With respect to the course of moral and theological studies, and of all lectures on canon and civil law and church discipline, the majority of the Roman Catholic bishops of the present day, the president, and the most, if not all, of the professors and masters of the College of Maynooth, have been, if I am not misinformed, educated in the different seminaries of France. In that case they can have no objection to submit to some such regulations as prevailed in that kingdom, keeping most jealously the whole system of clerical education under the immediate inspection and control of the civil government. It may be admitted, as I have already observed, that in a Protestant country this control ought not to be exercised over any of their doctrines in point of faith, in which all Catholics include the Pope's authority in *spirituals*. But these men ought not to have any objection to make the immunities of the Gallican church, and the boundaries which it established between the civil and spiritual powers, and against the encroachments of the *Court of Rome*, the basis of their church in Ireland, or to submit to the inspection of the civil power all that is taught in a college protected and encouraged by the laws of the land, and maintained by the public bounty, to see that these boundaries are not transgressed, nor these encroachments sanctioned. The mode which

the professors of morals and theology, &c. &c., followed in their schools in France was to compose and commit to writing their course of lectures, and to dictate them from day to day to their pupils, who wrote them down, and were afterwards examined out of them. These *Cahiers*, as they were called, were inspected by persons authorised for that purpose, and at the end of each course Acts were publicly held, and what they call Theses disputed on by the most distinguished of their students, which were previously submitted to a censor, specially appointed for the purpose of inspecting into the doctrines so taught and maintained; nor could any of these theses be disputed on in the schools until they were signed by this censor and the professors of the class. It is probable that the professors in Maynooth College follow the same method, and I see no reason why they should object to having a censor, recommended by the president to the Lord Lieutenant and approved of by him, who will be responsible to the government, and bound by oath not to license any course of lectures or any thesis in which any of the tenets renounced by Roman Catholics in their oath of allegiance, or any of the Transalpine doctrines with respect to the power or jurisdiction of the Pope not recognised by the laws of the land under His Majesty's predecessors, being Roman Catholics, shall be set forth or maintained.

This censor, as well as the professors, should sign every course of lectures, and every thesis or act publicly held, and send a copy of them so signed to the principal secretary. I think further that the several professors ought to be bound by oath not to teach or inculcate through the College any doctrines or opinions in private contrary to what they teach in public. Different clauses might be introduced to make all these provisions.

Entering into all these regulations, and supposing that they would be liberally and faithfully observed, I would introduce a clause enabling the students and scholars of this College, into which none are supposed to be admitted but persons destined for orders, to take, after a certain course of studies, and under regulations to be agreed on by the president and professors, and approved by the trustees, the degrees of Licentiates and Doctors in Divinity, as in the Sorbonne; these degrees to be publicly conferred in the presence of the visitors, Protestant as well as Popish. This would indemnify them for being excluded from those distinctions which many of them might enjoy, were they educated abroad, and reconcile them to this home education. All foreign degrees should be interdicted.

A very great abuse exists in most parts of the country from the establishment of seminaries for the education of priests, under the inspection and management of their respective bishops. These seminaries can be brought under no control on the part of the public, either with respect to the teachers employed or the doctrines taught in them; and if they are suffered to multiply, the country will be overrun by supernumerary priests, having no particular cure, and living on the poorer Romanists. Friaries are also established with the same view.

These seminaries and friaries ought to be prohibited, and no priest ought to be suffered to officiate in any part of the kingdom but such as shall have received his education in Maynooth College.

The funds, or the means that go to the support of these seminaries, might go to the general stock of the College, and the students would be better educated. But if persons educated in these seminaries, or in the friaries, are to be excluded from all exercise of their profession, the great object of the institution necessarily requires that all persons receiving their education in foreign seminaries should be still more rigorously precluded from it.

Many of these seminaries still exist in Italy, in Spain, and in Portugal, and to none of his new institutions is Buonaparte more partial or attentive than to

the *Irish* seminary, reinstated in its old situation in Rue Cheval Verd in Paris, under the direction of a Dr. Walsh, formerly Principal of the Irish college of priests called Lombards, and who, of course, is a man properly disposed to co-operate in all Buonaparte's designs against Ireland.

How students get to that seminary from this country is a question worth inquiring into, and how they return to it. To suffer such an intercourse, or any priest educated in that seminary to officiate in this country, would be madness even in the event of a peace with France; and it is surprising that no notice should have been taken of the constant correspondence that was carried on between the members of Maynooth College and their old friends and fellow-students in that seminary, and particularly with this Dr. Walsh, as long as any intercourse with the Continent was open.

It is much to be doubted whether it has even now ceased, or if it may not be continued through some private channel. (Query also: How do the Popish bishops carry on their correspondence with Rome? They carried it on latterly, as they said, through Portugal.) But even with respect to the Irish seminaries in Italy, Spain, Portugal, &c., it would defeat the object of this institution to admit students from them to engage in the mission of Ireland.

Filled with Dr. Geddes's Transalpine ideas of Papal power, and exclusively devoted to the see of Rome, they would be the greatest favourites with His Holiness: they would be raised by him to the places of greatest trust: they would be invested with most spiritual power, and consequently they would have greater weight with the superstitious people. Besides, they would not fail to represent the Maynooth priest as a government instead of a Romish priest, and jealousies and feuds would agitate their respective congregations. One of their own bishops, to whom I made this observation, agreed with me that such a danger was to be apprehended. I would, therefore, put an extinguisher on all these foreign seminaries, *as places of education for Irish priests to be employed in the mission in Ireland*, and would make it penal in all persons educated in them to perform any function of the Romish priesthood within the realm. But if this should be determined on, and the diocesan seminaries which I have already mentioned should be suppressed, it would be necessary, in fairness, to make provision for the entire mission, according to the calculation originally presented to the government. I do not think the additional cost to the public could be considerable, beyond the expense of an additional building for the increased numbers. The portion of Lord Dunboyne's property awarded to the College, the gifts and legacies which they daily receive, the sums that are expended in the diocesan seminaries, and what those students expend who travel for their education to foreign countries, joined to the funds for the support of the Lay College, would probably be found equal to the entire increased establishment. At all events this Lay College ought not to be tolerated. It is an excrescence on the institution, totally foreign to its design, and pregnant with great mischief. It was originally planned by the Roman Catholic bishops in the true spirit of Dr. Hussey's infamous pastoral letter, that makes it a crime, to be punished with excommunication, in every Roman Catholic parent to send his child to a Protestant school; and it has a direct tendency, as it was meant it should have, to defeat the object of the legislature in opening Trinity College to Papists, and to prevent the youth of that sect from mixing with the Protestant youth, from acquiring a liberality of sentiment on matters of religion, or cultivating those early school-day habits of intimacy and friendship that have such an influence through life. There is nothing more striking or, in my opinion, more alarming in the situation of the country at this moment, than the spiritual wall that is thus raised between the youth of both persuasions, particularly in the upper and wealthier classes. They are bred up not only total strangers to each other, but, on the part of the Roman Catholics, in a spirit of alienation,

jealousy, and distrust; and few indeed are the exceptions of persons who do not yield to the importunities of their bishops in this instance. They were never at rest till they induced Lord Fingall, Sir Hugh O'Reilly, and others of that weight among the Roman Catholics, to set the example of sending their sons to this Lay College. The example has had its effect, and this, together with the pains taken by the Roman Catholic bishops who particularly patronise this institution, to persuade the laity to provide funds for its endowment and support, promises to make it vie in numbers with Trinity College, if not checked in its growth.

Another great evil to be apprehended from this institution is the system of education established there. It is perfectly monkish. Their rules are as austere as those of a convent; and the scholars are trained up to such an obsequiousness to the heads and teachers of their church, and with such a devotional reverence to the priesthood, as must perpetuate that spiritual thralldom and that debasing superstition from which so much mischief may result.

[269.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 31st Dec., 1807.

I enclose you the form of a warrant which I had prepared for the Visitors of the College of Maynooth, and submitted to the Attorney-General for his opinion, together with his opinion upon it. You will see that his opinion is decidedly adverse to proceeding in the inquiry by the mode of visitation; and it is only extraordinary that the objections stated by the Attorney-General never occurred to the Chancellor, the Chief Justices, or the Chief Baron (excepting, indeed, the latter, who told me that he rather doubted whether the mode of proceeding by visitation was the most regular or the most likely to answer our purpose), who had my queries and letters in their possession for nearly two months.

Having received this opinion, I intend to proceed in the inquiry by letter from myself either to the President or the Board of Trustees; and I shall send a list of questions to be answered, in which I shall include all that I have received from Mr. Perceval, excepting those relating to religious discipline, education, and worship, unless I should receive your directions to include questions on those subjects likewise. The Attorney-General is decidedly of opinion that the Lord-Lieutenant could not legally require the Visitors by warrant to inquire into those subjects, nor could they legally make such inquiries; and I conclude that I, acting under the Lord-Lieutenant's authority, am equally precluded from making them. However, you will decide upon this point.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Right Hon. Spencer Perceval to the Right Hon. Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Downing-street, 3rd Jan., 1808.

I have read the draft of the warrant for the Maynooth visitation, and the Attorney-General's opinion upon it. I think his objections very well founded, and the question whether the inquiry should be carried on by the *persons named in the warrant, or any three or more of them*, rests upon this: whether the inquiry should be conducted in the formal manner of an inquiry by commissioners requiring their report, or in the less formal way which Sir Arthur Wellesley suggests. For if such a commission would be thought advisable, I conceive that selecting the commissioners out of the description of persons whom the Legislature has selected to be visitors would probably be considered rather advisable than otherwise. But the inquiry by letter may, perhaps, do as well; and possibly objections might be thought to exist to such a commission.

As to Sir Arthur Wellesley's objection to making the inquiry into the particulars of religious discipline and education (for as to *religious worship*, I confess, if I mentioned that before, I do not see, upon reflection, any reason for persevering in a desire to extend the inquiry to that particular), I do not feel the force of it; at least I am sure that if there is any force in it, the principle on which it must rest would go to this, that if this college was to be now, or was hereafter to grow into a college of Jesuits, constituted under regulations in matters of discipline, which might very well be understood to be religious discipline, so obnoxious and dangerous to the state that even Roman Catholic countries would find it necessary to abolish it, the mysterious secrecy in which this principle would involve it would preclude the possibility of discovering what those regulations were. But what I conceive to be clear is, that the government and the legislature not only have a right, but a duty, to know what the institution is which they patronise and support. And I cannot conceive that the College can, upon any justifiable principle, think of refusing to disclose the whole arrangement of their institution. The law has provided that the Protestant visitors shall not interfere in these matters; but it never can be understood that the legislature meant to say, that whether you educate Deism, Judaism, or Mahometanism, we shall never be able to discover, but will leave entirely to you: that cannot be. I therefore hope there will be no objection, at least, to the substance of the inquiry which I suggest. If the words in which I have expressed it convey the idea offensively, let it be done in another manner. Let the President be desired to furnish the government with a copy of all bye-laws and regulations whatsoever, for the purpose of being able to judge of the whole institution, and to lay it before Parliament if it be thought necessary so to do. And to that general inquiry, if no return is made but of such bye-laws as would come under Protestant visitation, I own I should not be contented, but should desire that more particular inquiry should then be made, and that this information should either be *obtained or refused*.

I am, my dear Lord, yours most truly,

S. PERCEVAL.

[270.]

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 2nd Jan., 1808.

I am very much obliged to you for your letter, and shall be happy to receive any suggestions from you respecting the inquiry into the state of Maynooth College.

The objection to our school returns which has occurred to you has likewise occurred to me, but I do not intend to lay them before the public, and I shall have good grounds for refusing them. I intended them for the information of the King's Ministers, and I wanted by their means to have the power of showing them that the people of Ireland required some other specific besides learning; and I think I shall show by them that the number of people who now receive education in Ireland is not far short of 200,000.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[271.]

To William Hamilton, Esq.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 2nd Jan., 1808.

I have received your letter of this day's date, in answer to which I have no hesitation in assuring you that no representation unfavourable to your character has ever been made to me; and, on the contrary, that, as far as I have ever heard of your reputation, I have reason to suppose that your conduct has always been correct and honourable; but you must be aware that it is not in the power of government to provide an office for every person of good character who may wish for one; and that principles of rectitude alone, however indispensable in the selection of public servants, are not sufficient to constitute a paramount claim to the favours of government in exclusion of the just pretensions of many candidates for employment who are equally deserving of attention.

If you refer again to my letter to Mr. Cooper, you will perceive that my observations relate chiefly to the resignation of Mr. Montgomery upon the terms proposed by that gentleman, and that no expression contained in that letter applies personally to you, excepting a doubt whether, in the event of a vacancy, the duties of that particular office would be exactly suitable to your

qualifications for official business. This explanation, I should hope, will entirely remove from your mind all apprehension of the nature expressed in your letter to me.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Glandore.

[272.]

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 2nd Jan., 1808.

I have received the directions of the Lord Lieutenant to request your Lordship would be so kind as to recommend a gentleman whom your Lordship may think a fit and proper person to be appointed Sheriff of the county of Kerry for the ensuing year. His Grace has at the same time desired that I would draw your Lordship's notice to the disturbed state of the northern part of the county of Kerry, and that I should point out to you the benefit which would be derived from the appointment to the office of Sheriff of a gentleman with youth, activity, zeal, and inclination to adopt those active measures from which alone the restoration of tranquillity can be expected.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[273.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 3rd Jan., 1808.

I met the two Chief Justices and the Attorney and Solicitor-General at the Chancellor's last night to talk over the mode of proceeding in the inquiry into the affairs of Maynooth College, the Chancellor having come to town only the day before. The result of our conversation was a concurrence in the opinion of the Attorney-General respecting the form of the proposed warrant to the Visitors, and that, considering the nature and objects of the inquiry, the best mode of making it was by the usual channel of communication between the government and the College.

They at the same time were of opinion that, as there was no

complaint against the College, and nothing had been alleged to which they could apply a remedy upon a visitation, it would be advisable that they should not visit at present. They doubted whether the visitation would produce any sensible effect on the discipline of the College; and they appeared to think it would be imagined by the public here that government was desirous of picking a quarrel with the College, and that, having failed of producing that effect by my means, had resorted to the mode of special visitation, for which there was no ground.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Chief Baron are in the country, but I saw Foster two days ago, and he was of opinion that an inquiry made by me would answer all the purposes. The Chief Baron, as I apprised you in my letter of Thursday, always doubted the expediency of making the inquiry by a visitation. I propose, therefore, tomorrow to send my letter and queries to the Board of Trustees, and if there should be any further points to be elucidated I will send for Dr. Troy, Lord Fingall, the President of the College, and one or two others of the principal Trustees, and converse with them in the presence of the Chancellor and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the result of the whole inquiry will be reported to you by the Lord-Lieutenant. If, after all these measures shall have been adopted, you should think it desirable to have a visitation, you can have it when you please.

I shall be in London by the 20th of this month, and I hope that you will have a good attendance of members of both Houses.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[274.]

To the Earl of Clancarty.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 4th Jan., 1808.

I will communicate your letter of the 3rd to Lord Harrington, and let you know the result; but I acknowledge that I should prefer to see the mail-carts protected by guards of your own, even at a large expense, than to use our cavalry in this manner, more particularly than to send with each boy only one dragoon. I am convinced that the best measure will be to have carts and regular mail-guards. You will be glad to hear that, upon further inquiry, there does not appear so much

reason to apprehend that the militia have any feeling respecting their discharges as there was at first; and I think it probable that I shall be able, with the assistance of a stout opinion from the Attorney and Solicitor-General, to get through the business.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Earl of Clancarty to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR WELLESLEY,

Garbally, 3rd Jan., 1868.

The frequency of mail robberies during the last fortnight on lines of road on which it is impossible to adopt the mail-coach system induces me to request you will privately apply to Lord Harrington to know from him whether an application for the escort of a dragoon to accompany the mail on the line of road between Clogheen and Dungarvan, and on certain other lines of road which will hereafter be pointed out, is of such a nature as he would be induced to entertain.

It would be my wish that this employment of His Majesty's troops should be merely temporary, although I am free to confess that without considerable sacrifice, in point of revenue, for the conveyance of the mails by mail-carts, attended by a guard, on such roads where robberies have of late been found most frequent, I am not at present aware of any method by which the public correspondence can otherwise be protected but by the assistance of the King's troops. I write by this post to Mr. Lees, directing him to advertise for proposals for the conveyance of the mail-bags between Clogheen and Dungarvan, the terms of which, if they appear at all reasonable, shall be submitted to you before any contract shall be entered into. In the mean time I beg you will be good enough to give me a line in answer to this as early as possible, apprising you, however, that should Lord Harrington be inclined to give me any encouragement, the applications for the protection of dragoons will by no means be confined to the line of road above mentioned.

Yours ever very truly,

CLANCARTY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[275.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

Dublin Castle, 4th Jan., 1868.

I enclose a letter from Lord Castlereagh, which I beg you to peruse and return it to me. As I find that Lord Harrington does not differ from your opinion and mine respecting the system of fortification to be adopted here, I will prepare the draft of a letter to the Secretary of State, which I will send for

your approbation.* We will talk over the other points of Lord Castlereagh's letter when you will come to town.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[ENCLOSURE.]

Lord Castlereagh to Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR HAWKESBURY, Brighton, Tuesday, 15th Dec., 1807. .

I have given Sir Arthur Wellesley's letter and the two reports a very cursory perusal. I forward them without loss of time to my brother, in order that he may furnish you immediately with copies, returning the originals to me, upon the detail of which I should wish to communicate to you my remarks upon a more deliberate consideration. These papers will serve to bring the military state of Ireland in a most satisfactory manner under the view of the Cabinet, and I trust will enable us to bring to a decision what we always both felt to be of the utmost importance in a political as well as a military light, the commencement of some system of fortifications for internal defence.

I agree with you that the ordnance point presses, and I think it cannot be so advantageously brought forward as in an official representation from Lord Harrington, which cannot be too soon forwarded, as the question of Ireland must be kept in view in any deliberations which we may have upon offensive operations, more particularly such as are remote, and have a tendency to open successive demands for reinforcements.

With respect to the police suggestions contained in Wellesley's letter, there surely cannot be the slightest hesitation, upon the actual appearance of the enemy, in authorizing the police to arrest all persons whom they may have reason to consider as likely to prove dangerous. But, with a view to do this effectually, lists ought certainly to be prepared of the individuals beforehand, as far as their information will enable them to do so.

With respect to martial law, there can be as little hesitation under similar circumstances in having recourse to its powers. I shall have, however, some remarks to make upon the details suggested by Wellesley on this point.

I shall be very anxious to revive the Irish military establishment generally so soon as we have the materials, in which I include the ordnance demands from Ireland through the official channel, and a more precise note than we at present have of the probable success of the militia levy in both countries.

In the mean time, we are not losing time, as some corps are in progress to Ireland; and it is on general principles desirable to let the regiments, both those returned from foreign service and those who have received large drafts from the militia, get to rights in their present quarters before they are disturbed by a new distribution. My general wish, however, I believe corresponds with what you have more than once expressed to me, not only to make Ireland strong in army, but to make Cork a considerable depôt from whence troops may be detached on foreign service.

* See letter to Lord Hawkesbury of 11th January, 1808, p. 298.

My plans with respect to, myself will be regulated in great measure by what intelligence we may receive from abroad, and what I may understand from you it is wished to have considered in town. My determination is to be fixed in London permanently by the 8th or 10th of next month. During the intermediate period I should wish to get as many tepid sea-baths as I can well manage; and I hardly think during the Christmas holidays that we shall find our colleagues disposed to assemble in force. I shall, however, be ready to come up whenever you inform me that anything material is to be done; and as I can now attend without any difficulty to all the ordinary details of the department, I trust you will not suffer your kindness to me to interfere with any plans you may have for the holidays.

I gain strength every day, which in truth is all that is wanting to render me completely equal to the fatigue of the winter.

I am, dear Hawkesbury, ever yours sincerely,

CASTLEREAGH.

Lord Castlereagh to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR WELLESLEY,

Brighton, 28th Dec., 1807.

Immediately after I received your two very interesting papers on the military defence of Ireland, I was called to town by business, which detained me there several days, and prevented me from sending you the very few remarks which I am enabled to offer on their contents.*

With respect to what relates to the preferable system of fortifications for Ireland, and the best mode of assembling the army for its defence in the field, it would be presumption in me to hazard an opinion. I cannot, however, help expressing my persuasion that the importance of commencing some system of fortifications in Ireland, without delay, is so pressing, both on grounds of political as well as military policy, that no time ought to be lost in reconciling the inconsiderable difference of opinion which seems to prevail amongst professional men with respect to the position and nature of the works; and I therefore trust the Duke of Richmond will take the earliest opportunity of writing officially to Lord Hawkesbury on the subject, which communication I apprehend is alone wanted to bring the subject under the regular consideration of the King's servants; and it is the more material that this step should not be postponed, as Lord Chatham is now engaged in framing his Ordnance estimates for the ensuing year, in which a sum should at least be taken on account, if it is meant to make any effectual progress in the course of the summer. What I am more immediately inclined to trouble you with any remarks upon is that part of your paper which relates to the police of the country on the eve of or in the case of actual invasion.

My official experience in Ireland was unhappily obtained in times which led me to turn my attention much to this subject, and so far qualifies me to speak with more confidence on the course that it may be most advisable to pursue than I can presume to do upon either of the other branches of the question that you have treated on.

* See letter to Lord Hawkesbury of 11th January, 1808, p. 298; and Memorandum at p. 202.

I am happy to find that there is very little difference of opinion in the general outline of our ideas; and it is rather upon the application of the system you recommend, than on the system itself, that I am led to trouble you with any suggestions. And 1st. I entirely concur in the policy of studiously avoiding any premature calling out of the yeomanry, which has a tendency to render their exertions languid at the moment when they are most required, and to destroy the impression which a first effort is calculated to produce upon the disaffected. I doubt even whether it is advisable to announce to the corps too early the positions they are to occupy, lest any reluctance should arise amongst the men to the notion of being marched so far from home. At the moment of danger and exertion you may rely upon them for any sacrifice, and every manly effort; but till that moment comes, more ought not to be announced to them than the points at which they are to assemble within their own counties. The arrangements for moving them from thence, however, ought to be all previously settled, and communicated confidentially to the Generals commanding districts.

With respect to the measures to be adopted on the arrival of the enemy, there can be no doubt that the first step must be a general proclamation of martial law, preceded or accompanied, according to the pressure of the case, by the arrest of all suspected persons of any considerable lead or influence amongst the disaffected. It is unnecessary that the Habeas Corpus Act should have been suspended to authorize such measures; they must rest upon the necessity of the case, and the government are bound to take them on their own responsibility. To render them effectual, the individuals ought to be designated, and the plan previously arranged, and each General within his own district directed to keep in view the best mode of executing such a plan upon receiving the orders of government to that effect.

I also agree very much in the nature of the regulations that you propose to be enforced after martial law shall have been proclaimed, viz., confining the inhabitants to their houses between sunset and sunrise; posting the names on the doors of houses, making masters of families responsible, preventing assemblages of people on any pretence, requiring the surrender of arms, and regulating the furnishing of supplies and carriages for the army. I should, however, very strongly recommend, whilst the operation of martial law is declared to be general throughout the island, that these regulations shall only be applied to such parts of the country as the enemy shall land in, to districts actually disturbed, or where insurrection is immediately apprehended, and to the very populous towns, particularly Dublin, where the burst of a mob may, at any time, be formidable, even to a considerable garrison. The worst consequences would result from attempting to execute the measure in parts of the island where the people are disposed to remain quiet. It would, in many cases, produce the mischief which it was intended to counteract; it would be impossible to enforce it with any effect over the whole country without dispersing the yeomanry and rendering their services much less available in support of the regular army. I certainly have observed very beneficial effects result from similar regulations, during the former period of rebellion and invasion, when applied to the large towns and very populous districts; but with respect to the country at large the regulations were disregarded, and fell into disuse to such a degree as to render it impossible in point of justice to

punish any man for a mere formal breach of them. We therefore found them of little avail, or rather, I should say, an embarrassment, in districts not disturbed; and in districts where disturbance did actually prevail, the trial by court martial and summary punishment immediately following upon the commission of some act of outrage or rebellion was as much of police as the general officers and troops had time to enforce, and had a better effect than a number of minute regulations which numbers infringed from inattention, and complained of as vexatious when rigidly carried into execution. I see no objection whatever to giving a discretion to the General officers to exercise such powers wherever they may feel them to be necessary, but I should recommend that their general application should be discouraged.

As connected with the subjects of which you have treated, and also with the measures to which the attention of Parliament will be called on its meeting, I am anxious to direct your consideration to the plan for forming a local militia in Great Britain, which it is the intention of government to propose. The precise details are not yet determined on, but the general outline is to organise in each county a numerous militia, perhaps not less, in the first instance, than double the existing regular militia, to be officered by the Lords-Lieutenant, and assembled for training for a month or six weeks in each year, as the militia now is in time of peace, but not to be moved out of their county on service, except in the case of actual rebellion or invasion.

It is intended by the formation of this force not only to make a considerable addition to the general defensive force of the country, but to lay the foundation of a military establishment, into which the greater proportion of the volunteers may be gradually melted down, and which being thus extended may ultimately become the permanent system upon which the country is to rely, in addition to its more regular army, for internal security.

In adverting to the number of volunteers now levied in Ireland, and to the proportion they bear either to the more regular force or to the wants of the country, whether considered with reference to police, or to the furnishing a supplementary force in the field, to act with the army in case of invasion, I conceive Ireland by no means to have reached its proper standard. The amount of irregular force in Ireland has hitherto, I apprehend, rather been regulated upon a calculation of what well-affected force could be raised within it, than whether the force so raised was everything in amount which it was desirable to aim at. It was prudent perhaps at the outset not to push it too far; but, notwithstanding much mischief remains, we may fairly reckon upon a great increase of determined and zealous loyalists in Ireland since the commencement of the yeomanry armament, and from no cause perhaps more decidedly than from the influence of that institution itself. I am persuaded, therefore, that the materials at present for strengthening the country internally are largely increased; and I cannot help thinking that in some shape or other Ireland ought to keep pace with England in extending the armament of her loyal subjects.

Although I am strongly impressed with the necessity of some corresponding effort being made in Ireland, I entertain considerable doubts how far

the proposed measure is applicable without modification to that country. Where an extension takes place of the volunteer system, the persons entrusted with the command of the corps are enabled to exercise a discretion in the selection of their men. The individuals are always of their immediate neighbourhood, and generally under their influence. If not perfectly to be depended on when first received into the corps, they acquire better habits from their comrades: they are always well watched, and if ill disposed are found out and removed before they can produce any extensive mischief. But where men are to be assembled by ballot, and placed under officers (not for the entire of the year, but for a very small portion of it) who know nothing of their characters, there certainly is danger that, whilst the time of annual exercise may be sufficient to teach the individuals the use of arms, it may not be sufficient to eradicate their bad propensities. In this view all the grounds of jealousy that apply to the regular militia of Ireland must apply in a very increased ratio to a body of men placed only for a short time under martial law, and not separated for a time sufficiently long from their own homes and habits to acquire the principles of a soldier. For these reasons I am disposed to consider the measure inapplicable to Ireland at the present moment. It might perhaps be risked in the Northern counties without much prejudice; but in three of our provinces I own I should deem it a very hazardous experiment.

The question then is, can we form a local militia which shall, on military principles, resemble what is here in contemplation, and which shall be free from the objections above stated? or is it desirable to extend the volunteer system? and if so, is the institution susceptible of any material improvements?

The only mode that occurs to me in which the local militia might be raised, with a due attention to the selection of the men, is, to make it a sort of county fencible force—the men to enter voluntarily, and not to be chosen by ballot. Some small bounty (a guinea would be quite sufficient) might be allowed, payable by the county; and the Colonels of the regiments might enjoin the Captains of companies, for the convenience of discipline as well as the better to be assured of the character of their men, to levy them within a given distance of their own usual place of residence. Into such a description of force the men would enter as freely as into the volunteer corps. I should think, so raised, they would be as deserving of confidence as the volunteers now are. The mere circumstance of their being regimented would give them a great advantage over the single volunteer companies, as a force capable of being moved with facility for service out of their own counties, exclusive of the advantage of their being subject to be assembled and trained for a certain time in each year to arms, under the provisions of the Mutiny Act. By some such arrangement as this I am inclined to think a force might be established in Ireland, considerably more efficient in a military point of view than the volunteers now are, and that its institution might be much facilitated by holding out an encouragement to as many of the volunteer companies now in existence as might incline to such a measure, to transfer themselves, officers and men, with their existing rank, into such corps.

If such a plan should not be deemed practicable, I see no other course left than an extension of the present volunteer system in such parts of

Ireland as may afford suitable materials for it. The defect of the plan upon which they have hitherto been formed is, that with the exception of a very few corps in the great towns, the whole force consists of insulated and separate companies, to render any part of which applicable to general military purposes in the field would require an organization to be effected, with all its difficulties and jealousies, at the moment when called upon service out of their own counties.

I am by no means disposed to think that, as Ireland is now circumstanced, it would be desirable that the whole of her volunteer force should be regimented. In this country single companies are really good for nothing; but in a country liable to be disturbed as Ireland is, and which must be occupied in detail, they answer every purpose of police, as well as if they were regimented. But still it would be desirable that a larger proportion of them should be thrown together in regiments before they are actually wanted, and with this view might it not be advisable to call upon the Governors of counties to assemble the Captains of the respective companies within their counties to see how far they could be prevailed upon, according to local convenience, to form themselves into regiments? If to one-third or one-half of the force such an organization could be given, and the regiments so formed be brought together for a few days on permanent duty in each year, from the excellence of the materials, I am persuaded you would find them capable of the most effective service in the field in case of invasion.

I have said enough to bring the outline of this question under your consideration. You have much better means than I at present possess of examining and judging what course, under all the circumstances, it may be most advisable to pursue. As I hope to bring forward the proposition alluded to early in the session, I shall be glad if you will bring the subject under the Duke of Richmond's consideration without delay, and come over, prepared with a full knowledge of his sentiments, to confer with Lord Hawkesbury and myself on the means of extending to Ireland the system of a local militia, or some other equivalent arrangement of internal defence.

I am, my dear Wellesley,

Ever yours very sincerely,

CASTLEREAGH.

The Duke of Richmond to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR ARTHUR,

Tuesday, 5th Jan., 1808.

I have no doubt your official letter on the defence of Ireland will be exactly what I think best, for hitherto we have agreed on that subject. Lord Harrington is unlikely to differ with us. I now mean to write shortly on Lord Castlereagh's letter.

I certainly think the yeomanry should be called out for a short time, to which Lord Hawkesbury agrees, as you will see by the letter I wrote this morning, and which goes with this.

As to the points on which the yeomanry are to assemble, I think we should be able to send the orders the moment of attack; and therefore Lord Harrington perhaps and you and I should settle it first. The orders ought to be written, but not made public.

When the enemy land, of course martial law must be declared, and I must stand the consequence.

The describing the proper persons to be taken up must be entrusted to very few. As to where the military law is to take its full force, nothing but those employed in Ireland can judge, and that only at the moment.

The same opinion I have as to the Generals empowered to act in Lord C.'s next sentence. As for the rest of his letter, I give as much confidence to the courage of the Irish as any man can; but I own I don't think the plan is calculated to secure their fighting for us. Fight they will, but the officers are just as likely to lead them on one side as the other, except in the north.

If we only allow the north to form such a corps, the south would be decidedly against us.

Soldiers formed as Lord C. talks of, can, I fear, be of little use; but I write my first opinion, and I hope am not obstinate.

Yours faithfully,

RICHMOND.

[276.]

To the Right Hon. John Foster.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 5th Jan., 1808.

Since I saw you I have made inquiries respecting the state of the fees taken in the Excise Office; and I find that there is not one office in which fees are not taken, as well upon tradesmen's bills as upon the settlement of all questions and accounts between traders and between the inferior Excise officers and the Commissioners. Besides this, many of the officers are so connected with the Customs that it would be quite impossible to introduce the reform and the increase of salary into the one without introducing the same reform and increase into the other. In some instances new officers must be appointed under either one board or the other. Are these new officers to come under the Board of Customs, and to have a taste given to them of all the old abuses, or are they to go under the Excise, for which they are not qualified?

I really believe that, considering the inveteracy of the abuses existing, the large amount of fees taken, the connection between the officers of Excise and Customs, and the difficulty of arranging the one, and leaving the other as it is, the best mode of proceeding would be, either to delay to do any part till you will have abolished fees by law, and have provided means to give compensation in salary in lieu of fees, or now to settle the whole of the offices of both departments, which are imme-

diately under the Boards. I beg you to reconsider this subject, and let me have your opinion upon it.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I have desired that a copy might be sent to you of a despatch received from the Secretary of State respecting coinage.

To the Trustees of the Royal College of St. Patrick, Maynooth. [277.]

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN, Dublin Castle, 5th Jan., 1808.

With a view to ascertain the grounds on which the application was made to Parliament in the late session for an increase of the grant to the College of Maynooth, and whether any exist to require an extension of the establishment at Maynooth and to justify the continuance of the additional grant from Parliament, I have been directed to request that you will send answers to the enclosed queries.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[ENCLOSURE.]

1. A list of all the persons admitted as students into the Roman Catholic seminary of Maynooth, from its first institution to the 1st January, 1808, specifying as to each person the age, the profession, or station of the father, by whom recommended, the date of admission, the length of time he remained in the college, and the profession into which he afterwards entered, or how otherwise disposed of. This return to be made according to the enclosed form No. 1.

2. The names of the presidents, vice-presidents, professors, tutors, and lecturers who have been employed in the said college since its foundation to the 1st January, 1808, specifying the places of their birth and of their education, their profession when appointed, and their duties; their appointments, when and how vacated, according to form No. 2.

3. The present establishment, comprehending the president and all persons employed in the government or instruction of the students, specifying the names, the branch of instruction, or other duties, and the salary of each; also the other advantages

derived from the funds of the college, such as lodging, table, &c., or fees from the students on the foundation, or others; and in what other occupations they or any of them are engaged, according to form No. 3.

4. An account of all the money laid out on buildings at Maynooth, from the foundation of the college to the 1st January, 1806, and the greatest number of students that actually have or could have been accommodated at one time in such buildings.

5. The expense incurred for additional buildings since 1st January, 1806, to 1st January, 1808, by whose authority such buildings were undertaken, out of what funds has the expense been defrayed; the purposes of such buildings, and particularly what number of students they are calculated to accommodate; what sums will be necessary to complete them, and the annual expense necessary for the support and instruction of the additional number of students.

6. An account of all contributions (exclusive of Parliamentary grants) received in each year for the benefit of the college, whether by subscription, legacy, payments by the students, or otherwise, specifying the amount under each head for each year, and also whether in land or in money, or by way of annuity, with the application thereof.

7. Whether all the necessary expenses of the students are defrayed out of the funds of the college, or what particular expenses, or to what extent, are required to be borne by themselves.

8. How many vacations there are in the year, the length of each, whether they are, in fact, prolonged beyond the rules, and how the students are disposed of during such vacations.

9. What are the regulations and practice respecting residence during the terms.

10. What are the rules of admission, and particularly what previous instruction is requisite to entitle a person, otherwise eligible, to be admitted.

[273.]

To John Baywell, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 6th Jan., 1808.

I have considered with all the attention which it deserves your desire that Sir Vere Hunt should be the sheriff of Tip-

perary in the next year ; and notwithstanding the sincere wish which the Lord-Lieutenant feels to act according to your recommendation in every thing which relates to the county of Tipperary, he feels himself obliged to object to this appointment. In these disturbed times the county have a right to expect, not that a proper gentleman shall be selected for the office of sheriff, but that that gentleman shall be selected who is most proper ; and with the utmost respect for Sir Vere Hunt's conduct and character, it cannot be said that he who resides in another county, and who goes into Tipperary only to be 'the sheriff, is so fit for the office as others, who, by constant residence and attention to their duties as magistrates and country gentlemen, have qualified themselves for the office. Under these circumstances the Lord-Lieutenant has desired me to call upon you to recommend a gentleman to be the sheriff of Tipperary in the ensuing year, who, from age, habits of activity, abilities, and zeal, will be able to perform the important duties of that station ; and who is likely to conciliate the good will and co-operation of the other magistrates and gentlemen by his being a constant resident and having a respectable fortune.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Shannon.

[279.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 6th Jan., 1808.

I received your letter of the 5th of December relative to the claim of Mr. Robson for compensation for fees lost as assistant-barrister of the county of Cork by the repeal in the last session of Parliament of an Act of Parliament passed in the year 1805, under which they were enjoyed. The fact is, that the Act of 1805 was passed in order, if possible, to check the use of processes a second time, they being liable to a stamp duty, and the assistant-barrister was entitled to a fee upon signing each process. It was found that the Act did not answer the purpose intended as a measure of revenue ; at the same time that the fees were a grievous burthen upon the people, and, at the recommendation of the Judges, the Act was repealed in the last session of Parliament.

From this statement it appears that the assistant-barristers had these fees for the performance of a duty, the necessity for which has been discontinued. If they had had these fees for many years, they would have had a fair claim to compensation, founded on the practice of government in similar instances; but as they enjoyed them during not quite two years, I am afraid that any proposition which I might make to Parliament to agree to this demand for compensation would be resisted. I am, therefore, under the necessity of declining to enter into a consideration of it.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[280.]

To the Primate.

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 6th Jan., 1808.

I am commanded by the Lord-Lieutenant to request that your Grace will have the goodness to direct your registrar to return to me, for his Grace's information, the number of clergymen annually officiating in your Grace's diocese at present; also the number of persons ordained by your Grace or your predecessors during the last six years ending the 1st of January, 1807, specifying the number in each year; also the number of vacancies of dignities, benefices, curacies, or chapelries, occasioned by death in each year during the same period.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[281.]

To the Marquess of Ely.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 6th Jan., 1808.

I enclose to your Lordship an official communication which I have this day addressed to the Governor and Deputy Governors of the county of Wexford, and I beg you to forward it. You will perceive that the period for the commencement of the ballot is prolonged to the 22nd instant, on which day it is positively ordered to take place.

I have to add, that I have made an arrangement with the Commander of the Forces consonant to your Lordship's sug-

gestion for giving the co-operation and aid which are required by the Governor and Deputy Governors in carrying this measure into effect; besides this, the yeomanry of the county of Wexford will be on permanent duty at the time at which the ballot will take place.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Clancarty.

[282.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 7th Jan., 1808.

The opinions of the militiamen respecting their discharges are very uncomfortable, but we must persevere on the ground which we have taken. I enclose copies of the last opinions of the Attorney and Solicitor General on the questions which had been stated by the Colonels respecting the attestations. I propose to send them confidentially to the Colonels, and to request them, if any men should claim their discharges, to use the topics contained in these papers in answer to such claims. Since I saw you I have conversed with Foster and Barry upon this subject, who had been represented to me as supporters of the claims of the soldiers to their discharge; but with me they took the other ground, and appeared to think that the soldiers had no claim to their discharge, and that there was no general feeling in the militia upon the subject.

As for the ballot, you will enforce it or not, as you may think proper; but I cannot think that if you should enforce the ballot, and fail, you will be in a worse situation in respect to recruiting than you were before.

Lord Harrington has got the gout, and I have not yet received from him the answer on the subject of the escorts for your mails.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Earl of Clancarty to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR WELLESLEY,

Garbally, 4th Jan., 1808.

Lieutenant-Colonel Blake informs me that the Galway boys are still impressed with the idea that such of them whose term of service bears date from the embodying of the militia will be entitled to their discharges

in the month of March next ; and although he does not think that this opinion originates from any wayward or disaffected notions among the men themselves, yet he confirms me in the sentiment that it has been cautiously fomented by the efforts of those who wish to promote disturbance. I have not, however, any doubt that, should government ultimately resolve upon withstanding this claim, the views of those who have promoted this intrigue will be altogether disappointed as far as relates to the Galway regiment.

Your wishes being thus answered in the acquisition of Colonel Blake's sentiments on the disposition of the Galway militia, I have taken some pains in a quiet way to discover whether any and what degree of impression of the same nature has been made upon the Kerry militia now quartered here. The result is as follows :

At first this regiment did not entertain any idea upon the matter, and when at length it reached them, the impression was so slight as to be easily done away upon the production and explanation of a few of the attestations. Thus things remained till the issue of the circular letter upon this subject, subsequent to which the strangest *déraillement* has crept into their heads that ever obscured the brains even of an Irishman. "Government," they say, "must certainly have entertained very considerable doubts upon this point, otherwise they would never have consulted the Attorney-General, and, having entertained such doubts, we may well be permitted to doubt likewise."

I do not, however, think the feeling a strong one in the Kerry regiment, or one that it would be difficult altogether to extinguish.

It will be absolutely impossible to go through the ballot of this county on the 10th instant, or indeed to do more than carry the Act into execution in the parishes immediately adjoining to this house ; in other parts of the county the gentry will absolutely do nothing, and in truth rather discourage than otherwise the proper officers from forming the necessary lists, insomuch that, with the exception of the neighbouring parishes, there is not yet a single list made out in the whole county.

All that one person can do shall be done by me. I am, however, well persuaded that our 350 men would have been raised much more expeditiously, and certainly much more satisfactorily, by the ordinary method of receiving volunteers than by the resort to ballot, which will effectually prevent our recurring in future to the former mode should the ballot be at any time hereafter relinquished.

Yours, my dear Wellesley, very truly,

CLANCARTY.

[283.]

To Sir George Hill, Bart.

MY DEAR HILL,

Dublin Castle, 7th Jan., 1808.

I return you many thanks for your letter of the 3rd, and I am happy to find that the Duke succeeded so well at Derry.

In respect to your promotion to the Privy Council, it is quite impossible to arrange it before you will go to England, as it

must be done by a King's letter, for which an application must first be made. I have, however, already taken the first steps. I had conversed with the Ministers in England upon the subject, but nothing was settled; and I have written this day by express to Lord Hawkesbury to request him to fix the principles on which the Privy Councillors in Ireland are to be appointed in future, whether from appointment to office, and to what offices, or from general character and consequence in the country, as has been the practice heretofore. As soon as this principle will be decided, the Duke will fix upon those to whose claims for this honour he will attend immediately; and I am convinced that there is no person whom he will have greater pleasure in gratifying in any way in his power than yourself.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[284.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 8th Jan., 1808.

I have omitted to tell you that I have not been able to prevail upon Lord Longford to move or second the Address; and I don't know to what Irish Peer I shall apply. I had thought of Ely, but the fact is that I want to prevail upon him to go into the county of Wexford to superintend the ballot, and I don't like to divert his attention from that object, which is more important than to get him to move an Address.

I have received your letter regarding the Maynooth inquiry. An addition shall be made to the queries, as you have directed; and from a communication which we have had this day with Mr. Dunn, the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, I understand that there will be no objection or difficulty in giving a full and explicit answer.

The extracts of letters sent to you by Lord Grenville were sent to us by —, the Catholic orator, two months ago. The — mentioned is a man who was desirous of being employed by government as a spy; and his trade is that of spy to all parties. He offered himself to —, Lord Fingall, and others, as well as to us; and we now watch him closely.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[285.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 8th Jan., 1808.

I enclose the copy of an oath which I believe the Duke of Richmond has referred to in one of his letters to you. I received it from General Mackenzie, to whom it was given by Mr. Hunt, a magistrate in Tipperary, who had got it from a man to whom an endeavour was made to administer it. I have given directions that it might be traced, and that an endeavour should be made to ascertain the nature of the constitution and the objects of the society called the "Liberty Rangers." I had heard of this society and of this same oath from a person whom I had sent into the county of Tipperary some time ago; and having conversed further with him upon the subject, I find that he had received his intelligence of the oath and the society from the same Mr. Hunt who has since given the intelligence to General Mackenzie; and Mr. Hunt must have kept it to himself (excepting, indeed, by communicating it to my emissary) for above a month. I therefore conclude that he does not think it of very great importance; and I imagine it will turn out to be of the same description with other oaths which we have seen, although better drawn, and referring to a society and organization.

The Catholics had a meeting the day before yesterday, and agreed to meet again on the 19th to petition Parliament to grant their objects. Nothing passed at the meeting of yesterday. They have been urged to take this step, as far as I can learn, by the Protestant opposition; and principally by Lord Headfort, who left as a legacy in the county of Meath, when he went to England, a petition to Parliament, to be signed by the Protestant gentry, claiming these objects for their Roman Catholic fellow-subjects!! This petition has been signed but by very few indeed. Although I have attended to these measures, I have thought it best, most prudent, and most consistent with the policy which you recommended to the Duke of Richmond, to take no notice of them; and I should not now trouble you with this subject, only that it is taking a public shape; and it is expedient that you should receive information upon it. I am convinced that the line of conduct we have adopted is the wisest, even if it should produce no other good consequence than that which we enjoy already, viz., to have

driven from the Castle a tribe of underling intriguers, who since the Union have been employed in what they call the *management of the heads of the Catholic body*.

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will let me know your opinions and wishes respecting the Privy Council in Ireland. Sir George Hill has written to claim to be of the Privy Council, as being a Lord of the Treasury; and others will claim that honour on the same ground. Sir George says that Lord Castlereagh and Long have admitted it. Other persons have likewise claimed this honour; Mr. John Claudius Beresford, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Falkiner: these two last were promised if any Privy Councillors were made who were not admitted by right of office: *Mr. May*, Mr. Bagwell. Is the admission to the Privy Council to depend upon office as in England? If it be, is the office of Lord of the Treasury to give a claim? If any man may be admitted to the Privy Council, shall an addition be now made to the Council? I think it would be an advisable measure. Mr. May cannot be recommended for this honour, although it is certain that if he should not acquire it he will not attend Parliament.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I enclose a memorandum of an account which we have received of what passed at the Catholic meeting.

The proposal from Lord Fingall respecting the Concordat is curious.

Lord Hawkesbury to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR WELLESLEY,

Whitehall, 11th Jan., 1808.

I have received your letter on the subject of the intended Catholic petition. There is nothing which can be done about it but to allow it to take its course. I quite agree with you in the impolicy of giving these Dublin associations importance, character, and authority in the country, under the idea of managing the Catholic body through them. This object, whenever it has been attempted, has completely failed, and we have only been the dupes of our own credulity. It is material, however, that we should be accurately informed of what passes at these meetings; and for the purpose of regular and particular information I have no doubt you will make some proper arrangement.

With respect to the Privy Council, there can be no pretence for a Lord of the Treasury claiming it as such. It has never been given as matter of course to Lords of the Treasury in this country. Not one of the Lords of the Treasury here at this time is a Privy Councillor except the

First Lord, and two Chancellors of the Exchequer. Upon the general subject we trust to the Duke of Richmond's discretion, wishing him only to be sparing, as it is a rank which ought to be upheld, and which will only keep its importance whilst it is not made common. If any are made, Dr. Duigenan should certainly be included in the number. His office is that of a Privy Councillor in this country, and it is certainly good policy to raise its value and importance in Ireland.

Believe me to be, my dear Wellesley,

Very sincerely yours,

HAWKESBURY.

[286.]

To Colonel Foster.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

Dublin Castle, 8th Jan., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 7th instant. The letter addressed yesterday to the Governor and Deputy-Governors of the county of Louth and of Drogheda may have satisfied you that your former communication upon the subject of the ballot had been attended to. You will observe that the Lord-Lieutenant has deferred the ballot, notwithstanding that, from the fact upon record of the county of Louth having always been balloted for the militia, an expectation had been entertained that there would be the greatest facility in carrying the militia law of last session strictly into execution in that county.

Ever, my dear Colonel, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[287.]

To the Earl of Clancarty.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 9th Jan., 1808.

I spoke to Lord Harrington this day about your dragoon escorts. He is disposed to give them to you as a temporary measure till you will have provided for the safety of the carriage of the mail by post-office means. You will therefore apply for such escorts as you may now require.

You will have received the letter which I wrote to you about our militia concerns.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Earl of Clancarty to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR WELLESLEY,

Garbally, 8th Jan., 1808.

I am fully aware that many objections exist to the employment of troops in the manner I had mentioned, and therefore made the proposal as a mere temporary measure till some permanent arrangement could be fixed on: you will oblige me by affording me the earliest intelligence of Lord Harrington's feelings upon the subject.

I sent you a few days ago Lieutenant-Colonel Blake's opinion upon the state of the Galway regiment with reference to the question of duration of service, and added the result of my own inquiries respecting the impression made in the Kerry regiment on the same point. Whatever may be the ultimate decision, I think both of these regiments will acquiesce in the determination of government; at the same time it must be confessed that, after the absurd declaratory clause in the 37th of the King (of the existence of which I was not aware till you showed it to me), the case is a much stronger one in favour of the claim than I had originally supposed it; for, whatever was the original sense of the substitutes' oath prescribed in the 33rd Geo. III. according to the rules of common reason and sound interpretation, the Legislature has declared its own construction of it, and the adoption of the precise same words in the oath prescribed under the 43rd Geo. III. c. 2, furnishes a reasonable deduction that the legislative construction ought to be the same in each.

However this point may be ultimately arranged, my services and exertions, in any way you may think it advantageous to command them, are entirely at your disposal.

We had a meeting of deputy-governors yesterday, and, except in the two adjoining parishes, there is not a single list completed in the whole county.

Yours ever very truly,

CLANCARTY.

To the Trustees of the Royal College of St. Patrick, Maynooth.

[288.]

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Dublin Castle, 9th Jan., 1808.

In addition to the information desired by my letter of the 5th instant, and for the purpose therein mentioned, I am directed to request that you will transmit to me a copy of all the bye-laws and regulations now in force for the government and education of the students at Maynooth, an account of the general course of study, together with a list of the books taught, or directed to be read, in each of the several classes of the college.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[289.]

To the Commissioners of Excise.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN, Dublin Castle, 11th Jan., 1808.

I am commanded by the Lord-Lieutenant to acquaint you that before his Grace decides upon your proposed arrangement of the Quit Rent Office, he requests you will take the proper steps for putting upon the rent roll in the Auditor's and Quit Rent Offices certain estates of the forfeitures of 1688, still belonging to the Crown, and of which the rents have hitherto been paid by the several collectors thereof to the Collector of the port of Dublin, as Cashier of Forfeited Estates, and by him paid over to the Receiver-General, in order that these rents may in future be remitted directly from the collectors to the Receiver-General, and may be accounted for in a more regular and expeditious manner than has hitherto been the case; and that you will also take into your consideration the expediency of causing to be formed in the Quit Rent Office a separate rent roll of all the lands now belonging to the Crown which appear to have been let on determinable leases at any time since the Restoration of King Charles the Second, specifying the quantity of the lands in each lease, the names of the original tenants, and the rent, whether those leases are expired or when they will expire respectively, and in what instances the lands of which the leases have expired have been again demised, and on what terms, and to whom, and who are the present occupiers of all such Crown lands and the rents respectively paid by them, and that you will report your opinion thereon for his Grace's information.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[290.]

To George Rowan, Esq.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 11th Jan., 1808.

I have had the honour of receiving your letter, and his Grace the Lord-Lieutenant has directed me to express his approbation of the zeal and conduct of Mr. Oliver Stokes, Mr. John Raymond, and Mr. George Church.

I have again written this day to the Commander of the Forces to accelerate the march of the troops into the county of Kerry,

and I hope that some detachments of those destined to be stationed in that county will arrive there very shortly after you will receive this letter.

I strongly recommend that the magistrates of the county should be very cautious in their examinations of the man who has committed this outrage, and in the engagements to him on condition that he should give information. It is most desirable that they should act in this, as indeed in every other instance, in concert; that one or at most two magistrates should be appointed to conduct the examination, and hold all communications with him; and that these should avoid examining him upon oath or entering into any conditional engagement of pardon if he shall give information which shall tend to the conviction of others; as I doubt much whether it is in his power to give information which shall tend to the conviction of any man, the execution of whom would prove a more salutary example to the county than himself.

If Banahan should be so badly wounded as to require medical attendance, or if he should be unable to work, I beg that you will pay for the attendance upon him, and subsist him as long as he may be disabled, and the amount which you will disburse on these accounts shall be repaid to you. I recommend that measures should be taken for his security by obliging him to live in a town, and, if necessary, by placing a small guard in the house in which he will reside.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Rosse.

[291.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 11th Jan., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 9th instant relative to the superannuation of Mr. Peyton Johnson, as a Surveyor of Excise, on his increased full salary; and I am sorry to inform your Lordship that when an increase of the salaries of the officers of the Excise was established, it was settled that the pensions to be given to them on retirement should not exceed those to which they would have been entitled if the increased allowances had not been granted.

The reason for which this arrangement was made was that it was intended that the increased allowances should be in lieu of

all the old unauthorized and illegal emoluments which the officers of the Excise had been in the habit of taking, which had never been the subject of compensation upon retirement; and it was not deemed expedient that the substitute for these illegal emoluments should be considered, and pensions equivalent to them should be granted, when the emoluments themselves had never been considered.

Under these circumstances your Lordship will observe that it is impossible to give Mr. Peyton Johnson a larger pension than that to which he would have been entitled before his salary was increased.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[292.]

To the Rev. — — —.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 11th Jan., 1808.

I have not heard of any intention to exchange Mr. ———'s living, and I have reason to believe that the Lord-Lieutenant will not listen to any application for a permission to resign, which is to be attended by a stipulation that the son of the person resigning shall be appointed his successor.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[293.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 11th Jan., 1808.

Having given much attention to the abstract of the Reports of the Committee of Engineers respecting the proposed fortifications in Ireland, and having considered the subject in concert with the Earl of Harrington, in consequence of the directions conveyed to me by your Lordship, I have now the honour to submit the result of the information which we have acquired, and of the discussions which we have had, upon this interesting subject.

The first object for the attention of those who will undertake this great work must be to provide for the ease and security of the communication between Great Britain and Ireland at more than one point in the last-mentioned island. Accordingly, I

concur entirely in the measures to be adopted for giving additional security to Cork Harbour, and to Kinsale (to which two points I shall advert again in the course of this letter), as well with that view as in order to afford protection to our valuable interests in the city of Cork. But the city of Dublin is the most important point in Ireland, whether considered with a view to the communication with Great Britain, to the riches and military resources of the place, to its being the seat of the government and the storehouse and magazine of the army, or to the means and facility of communication between the city and all the different provinces. The mode by which it appears that the engineers propose to secure this city as a point of communication with Great Britain, is by the construction of a fort at the Pigeon House, on the river Liffey.

The Pigeon House is a piece of made ground, 476 yards long, and 200 broad, including the basin, which occupies two-thirds of the whole space. The basin communicates with the river at the distance of about three miles from the city of Dublin, of which distance two miles are along a mole, called the South Wall, which runs in an easterly direction from Ringsend. On the northern side of this mole is the river Liffey, which is navigable to Carlisle Bridge, in Dublin; and on the southern the sea. The sands are dry at low water only, and at that time there is a communication of about two miles between the Pigeon House and the southern shore of the bay of Dublin, across the sands.

Ringsend is at the western extremity of this mole.

The river Liffey is confined to its bed by another mole, called the North Wall, which runs in a parallel direction with the South Wall as far as opposite Ringsend. The distance between the two walls, across the river, is there about 200 yards.

From this account of the relative situation of the Pigeon House, Ringsend, and Dublin, it will be obvious that a fortification at the Pigeon House will secure no more of the navigation of the river than to that point; and that unless Ringsend should be occupied as well as the Pigeon House, the communication by land between the proposed fort and Dublin will be nearly impracticable in the face of an enemy in possession of Ringsend, and of the towers and ground on the south shore of the bay of Dublin.

If the result of the consideration given to the suggestions should be a determination to occupy Ringsend as well as the

Pigeon House, it would be expedient to construct the principal work at the former, and the outwork at the latter. From the description above given of the ground, it is obvious that no establishment could be made by an enemy at the Pigeon House, as long as possession should be kept of Ringsend; and from the nature of the ground at Ringsend, and the great command of water which it possesses, there is reason to believe that a fortress of considerable strength could be constructed there at no very large expense. In this view of the subject Ringsend appears far preferable to the Pigeon House. The ground now existing at the latter must be purchased from the Ballast Office at a large expense, and the additional ground required for the principal fort near Dublin must be recovered from the sea. And the inconvenience attending this large establishment at the Pigeon House is the want of water. There is none excepting what may be conveyed in pipes, which are liable to be cut off, or can be preserved in tanks or wells, which must be sunk; and it is not certain that works of this description in made ground, such as that at the Pigeon House, will bear the firing of heavy cannon.

Another point of detail which ought to be considered before the principal fort for the protection of the communication with Great Britain is fixed at the Pigeon House, is the defence of the entrance of the basin from the river Liffey. This can be protected from surprise solely by the weight of the fire which can be brought upon it, and I believe that the ground will not afford the capacity to give this fire.

I am, therefore, of opinion that the principal fort ought to be placed at Ringsend; that the Pigeon House ought to be considered an outwork; and that no more ought to be done there than to strengthen the works already constructed, and to secure the place from surprise by an enemy crossing the sands at low water.

With the same object in view, that of securing a communication with Great Britain, I would recommend that in addition to the works proposed by the Committee of Engineers, the Board of Ordnance should turn their attention to the state of the works at Carrickfergus, if it should be practicable to give them the requisite strength; if not, it would be desirable that they should examine the port of Larne with a view to the establishment there of a place of security in which troops and stores might embark and disembark.

The object to be next attended to in the system of fortification

to be adopted is to provide secure places of arms and points of supply and support for the armies which might carry on operations on the different lines of approach to the capital, places which would afford security and give confidence to the yeomanry and the King's loyal subjects in case an enemy should land in the country, and would afford the means of operating upon the enemy's rear in case His Majesty's forces should retire towards the capital.

I entirely approve of the situations proposed by the Committee of Engineers for two fortresses of this description, Cashel in the south and Monaghan in the north; and I am of opinion that another might be added with advantage between Dublin and Athlone, in the neighbourhood of Kilbeggan, with a view to the enjoyment of the same advantages in the operations to be carried on against an enemy advancing from the westward.

In respect to the proposal of the Committee of Engineers to build a fortress at Loughrea, I apprehend that upon further consideration it will be found that it will not answer the purposes expected from it. These are to meet and oppose an enemy in front, if he should turn towards the south of Ireland, after landing in Galway Bay; to form the centre of the line of defence of the Shannon, between Lough Rea and Lough Derg; to afford the means of annoying the enemy's rear, if he should pass this fortress and advance from Galway at once upon the capital; or principally as a point within a day's march of any depôt of stores which the enemy may have landed in Galway Bay to feed his future operations.

As Ireland is intersected by numerous roads, all practicable for the march of armies, it will be found that no fortress will be capable of stopping in front the progress of an enemy, and therefore Loughrea will not answer this first purpose. If it should be necessary to withdraw the army from Connaught, and to take up the line of the Shannon, a fort at Loughrea, which will be fifteen miles at least to the westward of that river, would afford no support to the position which should be taken up. On the other hand, the line of the Shannon, which might be occupied by the enemy, would afford a good position for covering the operations which the enemy might deem it expedient to carry on against the fort at Loughrea, which, in the event of being attacked, would be left entirely to its own means of defence.

If, as supposed in the third case, the enemy should pass

Loughrea direct to Dublin, the annoyance which would be given to his rear would depend upon the means which the force stationed there would possess; and as there is a smaller proportion of yeomanry in Connaught than in other parts of Ireland, and as Loughrea is in the southern part of Connaught, I apprehend that the force there would be smaller and less efficient than one elsewhere.

In respect to the reason last enumerated for placing the fort at Loughrea, its force must likewise depend upon the means which Loughrea could afford of attacking the enemy's *depôt* supposed to be in the bay of Galway.

I recommend that the fort proposed to be built at Loughrea should be built at Galway. It is probable that this establishment would oblige the enemy to make his landing in the northern parts of Connaught, which are less cultivated, less populous, possess fewer resources, and are more distant from Dublin than those situated upon Galway Bay. A fort at Galway would answer better than one at Loughrea to support the operations of an army to the northward of the line from Athlone to Galway; it will answer equally well with one at Loughrea as an annoyance to the enemy's rear, and to his communications, if he should pass it. If it should be attacked, the British fleet can cooperate in its relief; and if the object of the enemy's operations should be to possess the province of Connaught and to use the line of the Shannon as a defence to this possession, a fort at Galway would give Great Britain the means of operating effectually upon their rear as well as in front.

I should propose that all these forts should have a capacity of holding 6000 men, but require only 3000 for their defence.

The next points to be considered are the positions to be fortified in the interior of Ireland, with a view to their being occupied by the troops; and I agree in opinion with the Committee of Engineers that the works which they propose ought to be completed at Enniskillen, Athlone, and the passes on the Shannon.

I have already adverted to the coast defences in Cork Harbour, and I concur with the Committee of Engineers in the other measures of this description which they propose. With a view, however, to the security of our valuable interests at Cork and Waterford, I should wish that something more effectual were done at Charles Fort, Kinsale, and Duncannon, than to improve and complete the sea batteries. I understand that the nature

of the ground in the rear of these batteries respectively affords a capacity for constructing works which would secure them effectually from assault.

I consider it of importance that the whole of these works should be commenced at an early period. Much time must elapse before any one of them can be completed in the manner which would be necessary for the security of His Majesty's government in this country. But they might in the first instance be completed as sod works, and afterwards revetted progressively, as time and opportunity would permit. According to this mode of proceeding, the ultimate expense will be larger; but it will be gradual, and will be less sensibly felt; and the country will enjoy some of the advantages which are expected to result from these measures at a much earlier period.

I have, &c.

[This letter was drawn up by Sir Arthur Wellesley, and signed *ex-officio* by the Duke of Richmond as Lord-Lieutenant. See letter No. 275, p. 277.]

To the Lord Chancellor.

[294.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 14th Jan., 1808.

I return Lord Redesdale's letter, which I have perused with great attention. The objects stated by his Lordship are those to which the persons charged with the administration of affairs in this country ought to give their most anxious attention; but I much fear that all we can do will not bring things to the state in which we all wish to see them, in any reasonable period of time. The misfortune of Ireland is, that the existing evils are so great and so obvious that everybody sees them; and it is easy to find out how things ought to be by adverting to England. The difficulty is to bring them from the state in which they are in this country to that in which they are in England, and I have not yet seen any practical solution for this difficulty.

I am convinced that all sudden and hurried reforms fail, and I think I could prove, by adverting to the history of the last twenty years in this country, that they have invariably ended by making matters worse than they were. This is, however, no reason for not making a beginning to reform abuses, and I hope that we have not only made a beginning in that good work, but some effectual progress in every department of the state.

I wish that I could agree in opinion with Lord Redesdale, and could think that the law was better obeyed in Ireland than it was before the Union and the Rebellion. I long for the period when I shall be able to say that any one law is carried into execution strictly and is obeyed in Ireland; and when I shall witness that period, I shall believe that we can carry into execution in Ireland the system of the British constitution as it ought to be carried into execution without the aid of general officers and bayonets.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[295.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 14th Jan., 1808.

I enclose a letter of an unpleasant nature which I have received this day.

There has been a very extraordinary delay in the movement of the troops into the county of Kerry, but I hope they will arrive there before many days more will elapse, and I have again pressed Lord Harrington to send cavalry.

The letter from General Mackenzie refers to the subject on which I wrote to you on the 8th. You will observe that the only intelligence which we have of the Society of Liberty Rangers and of their organization is through the person who has communicated with Mr. Hunt. I have had two people lately in the counties of Tipperary and Limerick, neither of whom heard of this society, although they heard of many other secret and criminal proceedings, except in one instance mentioned in my letter of the 8th, from Mr. Hunt himself. I am therefore induced to believe that the organization does not exist, and that Mr. Hunt has been deceived by his intelligencer; or that if it exist, it does not extend beyond the district of Copaghwhite. But I send a man down immediately to ascertain this point, and I have desired General Mackenzie to continue his inquiries.

The letter from Athlone serves only to show the spirit still prevailing in Roscommon.

I shall be in London by the 20th.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Harrington.

[296.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 14th Jan., 1808.

The enclosed letter from a very respectable gentleman in the county of Kerry, and another, which will go to you this afternoon, from the High Sheriff, will point out the state of that county. I have laid the enclosed before the Duke of Richmond, and have recalled to his recollection all that has passed on the subject of troops for this county; and he has desired me to tell you that, as it appears from the enclosed papers * that the disturbers of the public peace go about on horseback, there can be no doubt but that that country must be practicable for cavalry, and our dragoons can follow them. There is no doubt that they will suffer from this service, but as the gentlemen of the county wish for that description of troops, as it appears that the country must be practicable for cavalry, and as the infantry will be but little able to follow the disturbers of the peace who use horses, his Grace is desirous that you should order a detachment of cavalry to Listowell. It will be expedient that a gentleman of the Quartermaster-General's department should be sent into the two northern baronies of Kerry to see where horses can be quartered, but it would be best not to delay the march of the cavalry till the report of this officer will have been received.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Rev. George Lambert.

[297.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 15th Jan., 1808.

I am much obliged to you for your letter of the 13th instant, and I am of opinion that the public interest will be most benefited by your communicating directly with Mr. Trail during my absence, as the intelligence which you may forward to him will, in that case, be compared with information received by him from various other quarters; and it is only by such comparison that those intrusted with the government can judge correctly of

* The enclosures herein referred to were not received in office.

the degree of weight which ought to be attached to the various reports which they receive.

I shall be happy to hear from you in England whenever you may have anything to communicate which shall appear to you to be of importance.

Ever, my dear Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[298.]

To the Right Hon. Denis Browne.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 16th Jan., 1808.

In answer to your letter of the 14th instant, I have to request that you will station your party on Moss Hill and the armed boat on Lough Corrib, as you propose in your letter.

We have not stopped the ballot in more than two or three counties, where they were not ready for it.

I mean to take up the consideration of Connemara during the next summer, and shall have my plan of operations completed by winter.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[299.]

To Edward May, Esq.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 16th Jan., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 13th, and I am much concerned that your health will prevent you from attending your duty in Parliament.

It has always given me great pleasure to forward the wishes of Lord Donegal; and where they have not been complied with, there has been no vacancy, or the office that might be vacant could not be filled as proposed by his Lordship consistently with the laws and regulations for the management of the particular branch of the revenue in which the office might be vacant. You have not stated names, and therefore it is difficult for me to give you an accurate answer to your letter on this subject; but if a tidewaiter has not been appointed upon Lord Donegal's recommendation, it must have been because there was no vacancy; and if a person has not been appointed a

hearth-money collector at his Lordship's desire, it must have been because the regulations of the Excise require that persons appointed hearth-money collectors should be previously instructed in their duty; and I conclude that this person was not instructed, and that the person appointed was instructed, and that it was his turn to receive his appointment.

I have laid your letter of the 13th before the Lord-Lieutenant, who has desired me to say that he will always have great pleasure in attending to the wishes of Lord Donegal.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To William Ponsonby, Esq.

[300.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 16th Jan., 1808.

I sent your letter to me of the 4th instant to the Duke of Richmond in the country; and I have had a conversation with his Grace since his return to Dublin upon the subject of that letter. I assure you that the Duke entertains a just sense of the benefit which the public interests derive from the exercise of your loyalty and zeal; and considering your own merits as the ground of your claim, his Grace will be happy to have an opportunity of offering you some appointment which may be suited to your wishes. You must, however, be aware that the applicants for office are extremely numerous, and that, with the best disposition on the part of government to attend to your wishes, your claims must necessarily be considered with reference to those of many competitors. I wish you clearly to understand that it is contrary to the Duke of Richmond's principles to enter into previous engagements for the disposal of his patronage; and you will therefore consider this letter not in the light of a positive engagement, but as an assurance that his Grace will be happy to attend to your wishes as far as may be in his power; and that I shall have great satisfaction in reminding him of those wishes when a favourable opportunity shall offer.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[301.]

To William Ponsonby, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 16th Jan., 1808.

I have received your letter, and am very sorry that the reinforcement alluded to in that letter should not have been sooner furnished. I assure you that I have long since urged the expediency of sending these troops into the county of Kerry, and have been anxious that no delay should occur in their march. I find that the cavalry is now on its march, and I hope that many days will not elapse before it will have arrived at its station.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[302.]

To Stewart Weldon, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 16th Jan., 1808.

I have received the honour of your letter and its enclosure, and in requesting that you will accept my best thanks for the information therein contained, I have to state that an immediate communication will be had with the Commander of the Forces, in order that a detachment of troops may be sent to Athy, to prevent a recurrence of the outrage which you have represented on this occasion.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[303.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 22nd Jan., 1808.

I wish that you would consider of and mention to the Duke of Richmond the propriety of appointing a special commission for the trial of the robbers now in confinement in Kilmainham. A special commission always strikes terror; it shows the attention of government to the state of the police of the country; and in the county of Dublin it would be of great use, as I understand from Trevor that there was a great probability of convicting all the prisoners to the number of twelve, of which I am

afraid there would be but little chance if the chairman of the sessions should try them.

The commission for the counties of Limerick, Tipperary, and Waterford and Kerry, is also a subject which requires immediate attention.

The commission must be sent down after this term, I understand, as otherwise the business will be greater than can be done at the assizes; and it will therefore be necessary to take early measures to arrange the evidence, &c. The commission ought to go first to Limerick, in order that Bourke may be tried and acquitted, or, if convicted, pardoned, so that he may appear as evidence against Ryan at Clonmel. If Ryan should be acquitted at Clonmel for the attack on Bourke's house, he ought to be detained, and to be tried at the assizes of Limerick for the robbery of the Bishop. I fear that the Bishop will not be in Ireland at the time the commission will be at Limerick.

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will send me over as soon as possible the Police Bills, the Clergy Residence Bill, and the others still in Mr. Townsend's hands. I also wish to have an account of the police funds; the expense of the present police establishment, including the conservators of the peace; an estimate of the expense of our new establishment; an account of the number of robberies committed in and near Dublin since April last; the number of persons committed to gaol, and by whom; and any other information which you may think it desirable I should have as a ground for our new measure.

Whatever may be our eventual determination respecting Mr. Patrick's contract, my opinion is that we ought to advertise for fresh proposals.

Pray speak to Carleton about Aghadowey, and ask him whether that living will be agreeable to him, and whether he will reside? If he will, take the Lord-Lieutenant's orders respecting carrying the arrangement into execution. Let Leslie be appointed to the sinecure, and if he and Mr. Quin choose to exchange afterwards, they may do so.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[304.]

To Lord Castle Coote.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 22nd Jan., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 16th of January since my arrival in London. Before I left Ireland I gave directions that an answer might be sent to the Board, and a letter might be written to Mr. Hutchinson respecting the custom-house at Cork; but owing to the hurry of business previous to my departure, both were omitted: Mr. Trail, however, will write them in course. The Board will receive directions to have an estimate made of the expense of building a custom-house at Cork, which will answer all the purposes of the revenue and of accommodation for the trade, which shall be substantial, but without ornament. The Lord-Lieutenant is disposed to give facility to any measure which the citizens of Cork may think proper to adopt for the ornament of that city; and if they choose to subscribe a sum sufficient to build an ornamental custom-house, government will advance towards the erection of such a building the sum which will be estimated as the expense of erecting a building for the purpose of a custom-house such as I have described.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[305.]

To Colonel Handfield.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

London, 23rd Jan., 1808.

The government here having adverted to the estimate of the expense of the Commissariat Department in Ireland, have asked me whether it is possible to dispense with the whole or any part of the number of 1050 horses included in it, according to the example set in this country. The notion is that you should retain the carriages and the drivers, but that you should part with the whole or a great proportion of the horses, and rely for the supply which you would require of those animals, when the army should be in a state of active operations, on the measures which it might be possible to adopt at the moment to procure them.

In answer to this proposition, I have pointed out first, the difference in the state of this country and of Ireland; secondly, the difference in the state of equipment of the two armies; and

thirdly, that I thought that it was probable that the horses performed some services in ordinary times for which it would be necessary to pay if they should be sold, and that the whole of the expense of their maintenance would not be saved.

But the King's Ministers, although they have no inclination to starve the service, are very desirous to save any money that they can, and have expressed a wish that I should make further inquiry upon this subject. I wish, therefore, that you would let me know your opinion upon it as soon as you can, particularly the amount of the inconvenience which the department under your management will experience if deprived of the horses, and whether they perform any services in ordinary times, the nature of those services, and the expense which must be incurred if the horses should be sold.

I enclose the estimate of your department, which I beg you to return, and I hope to hear from you by express as soon as you can.

Mr. Trail will forward your letter.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

[306.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 23rd Jan., 1808.

I received your Lordship's letter of the 13th* before I left Ireland, but after I had sent to the Trustees of the College of Maynooth the queries to which I required answers for the information of the King's Ministers. My queries, however, went to all the points stated in those which your Lordship has been so kind as to send me, excepting those relating to the foreign seminaries. I had adverted to this part of the subject also, and had framed queries upon it; but I was advised that it was still contrary to law to send persons abroad to be educated in Roman Catholic seminaries, and that it would not be correct to require answers which should tend to criminate those who should give them. For that reason I thought it best not to include queries on that part of the subject.

I have likewise received your Lordship's letter of the 17th since my arrival in London, and I have sent it to my office in

* See p. 263.

Ireland, with directions that it may be laid before the Lord-Lieutenant, with all the information which will enable his Grace to decide upon the recommendation which it contains, and that all the official arrangements may be made to carry your Lordship's wishes into execution.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[307.]

To Thomas Burgh, Esq.

MY DEAR BURGH,

London, 23rd Jan., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 19th. I did everything I could to bring about a settlement of the Ordnance accounts before I left Ireland, and I should have experienced no difficulty in settling that the debentures, although not signed as directed by the regulations of Charles II., should be considered as regular official instruments; but the difficulty does not consist in the want of regularity in the debentures only, but in the fact that your accounts, as agent of the regiment of artillery, have not yet been settled for want of the proper vouchers; and as you were both treasurer to the Ordnance and agent to the regiment, we must begin by settling for your disbursements in the latter capacity.

I am fully aware of the difficulties of the moment as experienced in Ireland in 1796, '97, and '98, and I am not inclined to apply to those periods regulations which can be applied only to periods of peace and tranquillity; and you will find me disposed to dispense with forms which are not essential to a due and fair settlement of our account. But a beginning must be made, and that must be the agent's account; and I recommend you to lose no time in finding out from Brownrigg what documents he wants to enable him to settle that account, and that you should furnish them as fast as you can. If you cannot furnish those that he will require, government will decide upon those which you can furnish, and upon the nature of the evidence which you can advance in support of your charges in the account, with due attention to the crisis of the times and to your situation.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[308.]

(Private and Confidential.)

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 23rd Jan., 1808.

Tell the Duke of Richmond that the Rochefort squadron came out on the 17th, but, as two squadrons were near where they were on that night, there is reason to hope that they may have fallen into our hands. They first stood to the northward and westward as far as Isle Dieu, and then bore up and steered to the southward and westward.

You will probably hear of their sailing in Ireland.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[309.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 26th Jan., 1808.

I think it would do good if the Commissioners of Excise were to make a tour, but those who will make the tour ought not to be permitted to order any alterations, only to report for the information and orders of the Board. A reasonable allowance ought likewise to be fixed for their travelling charges if they should require an allowance of this description.

If we should find that our scale of allowance is too low in any particular instances, we must raise it; but I am convinced that we have done right in the first instance.

Mr. Foster applied to me, and I spoke to the Lord-Lieutenant, respecting Mr. Speer's office. Mr. Speer was represented to me by Mr. Foster as a man who was employed in a business of great public utility—that of inventing a mode of making animal oils equally wholesome and palatable with vegetable oils, in which he thought he should succeed, and Mr. Foster wished that his son might be appointed to his office of Assayer of Spirits. I told Mr. Foster that the Lord-Lieutenant had great objections to allow this kind of succession, but I thought it possible he might consent to the arrangement he proposed only because the elder Speer was employed in perfecting a discovery likely to be beneficial to the public. I mentioned the subject to the Lord-Lieutenant on the same day,

and urged, as a reason for complying with Mr. Foster's request, what he had determined to do in the case of Woodman. He then said that it might be done. I dare say that if you mention these circumstances, he will recollect them. I don't recollect William Reid, but I will look into my application book. I never made any arrangement for Mr. Ramage ; the case was referred, I believe, to Lord Clancarty, whose reply I don't recollect.

The Surveyors-General ought to be arranged, if possible, in such a manner as that the Board of Excise should have four of the existing Surveyors-General, and the Board of Customs Mr. Croker, Mr. Cuthbert, and two new ones. If the Board of Customs must have Mr. Worthington as well as Mr. Croker and Mr. Cuthbert, then the Board of Excise must have the other three and one new Surveyor-General, and the Board of Customs the other. Let me know who the Board of Excise recommended as Surveyors-General, and what offices they at present fill. The alteration of the arrangement made by the Duke in the Clerk of the Informations' Office is an improvement.

You did not enclose the *Evening Herald* on Sir Terence's proposition.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[310.]

• To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 31st Jan., 1808.

I intended to have called upon you this morning, but I have been obliged to stay at home on account of a very bad cold which I have caught. I wanted to tell you that I have reason to believe that the expense of the fortifications in Ireland is not included in the estimate for the ordnance service which will be laid before the House of Commons this week ; and I understand that Lord Chatham says that the Cabinet have not agreed upon that system, and that till they do agree it is impossible to take any sum on account for that service in the estimate.

By the Duke of Portland's desire I have called upon Lord Chatham twice to speak to him on this subject, but did not find him at home ; and I met him, and he did not appear inclined to mention it, and I thought it better to say nothing about it.

It is obvious, however, that unless a sum should be taken on account in the estimate of this year, nothing can be done till the next; and I earnestly recommend that you should take an early opportunity of bringing the subject before the Cabinet, of getting them to agree to it, and that Lord Chatham may be pressed to put matters in train to make a commencement in this year.

If his Lordship declines to bring it forward on account of the difference of opinion stated by the authorities in Ireland, I have to observe that this difference is very trifling, and does not apply to the general principle at all; and we all think it so important that a commencement should be made in this good work, that we prefer giving up our opinions to incurring the risk of further delay.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I enclose a letter just received from Ireland. I think it would be worth while to have this gentleman at Holyhead examined.

To Captain ———.

[311.]

SIR,

London, 1st Feb., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 26th ultimo. Had the request contained in that letter been made to me by any person out of the army, and unacquainted with the usages of His Majesty's service, it might not have appeared extraordinary; but I must own I am rather surprised that an officer of the rank of Captain should not have adverted to the manifest impropriety which there would be in my laying before the Commander-in-Chief such a request as that which you wish me to make in favour of your brother.

I am persuaded that, when you reflect on this matter, you will be convinced that to promote your brother before he shall have served in the army, and to place him over the heads of all the ensigns of three battalions of the —th regiment, many of whom are now on foreign service, would be an act of very great injustice to those officers, and consequently one which I cannot propose to the Commander-in-Chief; and which, if proposed, His Royal Highness would certainly not sanction with his con-

sent. Indeed I cannot avoid being surprised that such a proposition should have come from an officer of the —th.

It will always afford me satisfaction to attend to your father's wishes, when in my power to do so ; but in this instance you will, I am persuaded, admit that I have no option.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[312.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 1st Feb., 1808.

In answer to your letters of the 25th, 26th, 28th, and 29th, I have to inform you that I conceive Mr. Waller is entitled to nothing excepting his emoluments as given to the Commissioners of Inquiry in 1804. You have my opinion about the accounts of the Commissioners ; we cannot refuse to allow them to do that which they are empowered to do by law, on the ground that they are incapable men.

I will recommend to the Lord-Lieutenant a plan for filling the vacant offices of Surveyor-General as soon as I shall receive your answer to my letter of the 26th January.

Besides the expense of the police under Alexander, I should wish to have an account of the expense of the conservators of the peace in the city of Dublin.

The Lord-Lieutenant's decision between Lord O'Neill and Lord Hertford, in Antrim, must be attended to ; but as Lord O'Neill has so much patronage in the Post-Office, and is on the spot, he must not be allowed to run Lord Hertford too hard in Antrim ; and I beg you to remind the Lord-Lieutenant of Lord Hertford's claim to half the patronage of Antrim when any thing falls vacant in that county.

I can do nothing for Mr. Ormsby. Don't press Denis Browne to come over. In fact I see no necessity for bringing over any of them ; but the gentlemen on this side of the water consider a strong majority in the House to be of the utmost and of paramount importance ; and I know that it will end in want of the services of the Irish members at the close of the session, when no power on earth will be able to detain them in London.

I recommend the following arrangement of the account office

of the Customs :—Four clerks : the first only 350*l.* per annum ; the fourth 120*l.*, as at first arranged ; and let the future establishment be as recommended by the Commissioners themselves.

I don't like this conduct in the Commissioners at all ; and if I find that Mr. Vandeleur and Mr. Hutchinson are to oppose the Lord-Lieutenant's authority, I must recommend that they may be dismissed.

Take the person as sheriff of the county of Donegal who stands first upon the return, provided he be not the one recommended by either of the parties.

I am not quite satisfied with the arrangements which have been made respecting the special commission. A mission of this description is important in Ireland on many grounds which don't appear to have been considered by the Chancellor ; and I should have been unwilling to forego the advantages to be derived from it on account of the private feelings of any man.

We must still begin by Limerick, otherwise we shall have Ryan acquitted.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[313.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 1st Feb., 1808.

I received your letters of the 24th, 25th, and 28th. We have nothing to fear from the Rochefort squadron.

These damned parties in Donegal will destroy us. I have desired Trail to appoint as sheriff the man who stands first upon the return, if recommended by neither of the parties. If there be no return, the best way would be for Trail to inquire for an impartial man from Sir John Stewart.

Appoint Abercorn's governor when the election is over. I have satisfied him upon that subject, and have told him Sir S. Hayes should be appointed. There is no occasion for your writing to him upon it. He has immense objects for his protégés, about which I will write to you fully to-morrow, or next day, for I have not been very well for these last two days, and I am now not able to enter upon a long detail. Don't tell Lady W. that I have been unwell, as it is only making a piece of work about nothing.

Decide about Pole's friend, Paul Palmer, as you please, and who shall fill the office of clerk of the Information Books : you have my opinion upon that subject in a former letter.

I suspect that the French are gone to take possession of the Floridas.

I know the fittest man in the world to be your secretary, if he will take the office ; but he is looking for something here which he is almost certain of getting : it would be worth your while to have him, if only for a month. It is Sydenham, who was Lord Wellesley's secretary : if you should lose him, I would recommend you to take Colonel (Meyrick) Shawe, who is now in Ireland. They are most gentlemanlike men, well informed, and complete men of business as well as pleasant men in society, particularly Sydenham.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[314.]

To Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

London, 1st Feb., 1808.

I enclose a letter which I have received from an officer of the 36th regiment, who thinks himself authorised to make me the channel of conveying his grievances to His Royal Highness because his regiment was under my command in Hanover and in Sussex. I think that the subalterns of the 36th appear by this account to have been aggrieved in South America in a manner of which His Royal Highness would not approve if it came to his knowledge ; and, if he does not already know it, I shall be obliged to you if you will lay the enclosed before him.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[315.]

To the Marquess of Ely.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 2nd Feb., 1808.

Your letter arrived just one day after the petition had been presented, and the day for taking it into consideration had been fixed ; and I found that I could not postpone the consideration of it to the period proposed by you without the consent of the

other party to the petition, which there was no chance of obtaining : I therefore thought it most prudent to say nothing about it.

I have also received your letter of the 27th January. I have not seen Pole to talk with him on the subject of it, but I will do so if possible before the post goes out. If he acted as Mr. Sutton asserts he did, all that I can say is that Mr. Pole is not the government ; he does not guide my sentiments. I differ entirely from the Queen's County petition on the subject of tithes, and His Majesty's Ministers in this country agree in opinion with me.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Since writing the above I have seen Pole, who says that he never wrote to the Queen's County that he would support their petition, or any specific measure, excepting an investigation on the subject ; but as I said before, Pole is not the government.

To James Trail, Esq.

[316.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 3rd Feb., 1808.

I have just received your letter of the 30th of January. You ought to give Mr. Corbet his money in the manner you propose.

If the Commissioners should report the clerk you mention unfit to do his duty, he must be dismissed and another appointed ; but if we should have no knowledge of his unfitness, we cannot notice it. If it has been mentioned privately to you, you might inquire about it from Lord Annesley, or one of the Commissioners of Excise, and if it be true have him dismissed.

I find that we have made a mistake respecting the Orders in Council of the 10th November, 1807, relative to neutral trade. We ought to have introduced them into a proclamation by the Lord-Lieutenant and Privy Council of Ireland ; and indeed it appears to be the opinion here that that measure will still be necessary, as the proclamation must be recited in the Act of Parliament which must be passed for the purpose of imposing the duties on articles in ships which may be brought into Irish ports. I don't believe that any inconvenience has resulted, or will result, from the delay in issuing our proclamation, as no

ship has to my knowledge been brought into any port in Ireland under the King's proclamation; but it is desirable that no time should be lost now in having an Irish proclamation, and that the same duties should be taken as those which are levied here.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[317.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 4th Feb., 1808.

Lord Abercorn's objects are the Bishopric of Dromore for Fowler, and a representative peerage for Lord Mountjoy. I told him that I had reason to believe that the Duke of Portland would require the first bishopric that might be vacant (and it was probable Dromore would be the first) for Mr. Jocelyn; and that I knew Lord Clancarty was to be the first Peer, and that Lord Rosse would think himself very ill used if he were not to be the second; that besides him there were Lord Farnham and others who conceived they had claims which could not be passed by; but that I would communicate his wishes to you and Lord Hawkesbury. The latter expects to soften him, by a green riband for Lord Aboyne; but I suspect he will not easily succeed.

Trail will speak to you about the arrangements of the Surveyors-General of Customs and of Excise. You will see that if you should take the recommendation of the Commissioners of Excise as proposed in my letter to him, you will have an appointment of Surveyor-General of Customs and one of Inspector-General of Excise to give away. You have all the applications that have ever been made to me for office, and are aware how necessary it is to attend to the applications of members of parliament, and the resident gentry of the country; and I shall recommend nobody to your notice. But I promised Adderley to remind you of his application in favour of his brother, for whom probably provision might be made upon this occasion.

I will speak to Pole about Moore, and to Lord Hawkesbury about Sir Charles Ormsby. I am convinced that neither will consent to what is proposed. I write to Mr. Ponsonby, and

enclose the letter to Mr. Trail; and if you should persevere in thinking that he ought to be collector of Tralee, I beg that you will desire that the letter may be forwarded.

Lord Glandore, who learned from me that you had some thoughts of this arrangement, desired that Mr. Ponsonby might be informed that he had recommended it, which I have done.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[318.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 4th Feb., 1808.

I understand that the English Catholics have lately made some endeavours to unite their cause with the Irish of the same persuasion; and they have an agent in Ireland upon this business at the present moment. The Irish appear to hope to derive some advantage from this union of interests, of which it can only be said that if it should be made it will inoculate them with more religion, and may have the effect of moderating their party violence, and at all events will give us an additional channel for knowing their secrets.

The English Catholics appear to expect that even the present government would not refuse to extend to them the benefits of the Irish Act of 1793.

You'll see in the enclosed paper that there, has been some discussion among the Roman Catholic Bishops respecting Sir Jerome Fitzpatrick's proposal of a Concordat.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[ENCLOSURE.]

Sunday night, 31st Jan., 1808.

Sir Jerome Fitzpatrick's publication produced an alarm among the Bishops. Many are in town on other business, partly said to be about the College of Maynooth and the inquiries lately made about it by government. They had a meeting on Monday last (the 25th), and it is supposed they were to consider Sir Jerome's proposition. But it is not known what passed. One of them had previously called on Sir Jerome, and represented the injury or inconvenience to the clergy if he persisted in agitating this subject, and in engaging the lay Catholics to take it up.

It is supposed the laity could easily force the clergy to any measure the former might conceive necessary for carrying their own objects.

It is conjectured by some that Sir Jerome is set on by government.

If the laity thought they could carry their points, they would readily engage the clergy, and succeed in making them adopt some measure like Sir Jerome's.

The Pope would, for the good of the Catholic cause, agree to it, even in his present circumstances. That, if he refused, the clergy might possibly be forced to go still farther, and agree that his consent should be waived to the appointment of Bishops. About twenty years ago the same project was discussed, and an offer made to government in conversation to bring it about, which was discouraged. Some think that the present Ministers will do something for the Catholics, at least extend the Act of 1793 to Great Britain, and from the critical situation of the country go even farther.

There will be separate petitions from many counties, multitude of letters received from the country, all concurring in the measure of petitioning.

Lord Fingall will give the petition to Grattan. There will be no more public meetings in Dublin. But an association or club is still in contemplation, into which all country Catholic gentlemen will be admitted. This for the sake of correspondence and concert.

Prevailing sentiment is that they should petition every session.

To Major-General Calvert.

[319.] MY DEAR SIR,

Harley Street, 5th Feb., 1808.

I enclose a letter which I have received from a man named Mark Lee, who is at present confined in Liverpool Gaol as a deserter from the 4th dragoon guards. Mark Lee made a proposal to me, through a third person, to deliver himself up, upon condition of being pardoned; and after communication with the Adjutant-General in Ireland I certainly encouraged him to expect that pardon, and he accordingly did deliver himself up. I shall, therefore, be much obliged to you if you will take the necessary steps to fulfil the expectations which were held out to him, and let him be conveyed to his regiment.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. George Rose.

[320.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 5th Feb., 1808.

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will urge the Committee of the Privy Council to give directions that tokens of the value of 2s. 6d., Irish currency, each, may be coined for that country. A coinage of this description would be a great convenience to the merchants of the country, as well as to the government, and would enable us to put an effectual stop to the illegal circulation of small notes.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[321.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 5th Feb., 1808.

I don't know what to say about Lord Edward's coming over. The Ministers and the Secretaries of the Treasury are always enjoining me to bring over our friends, at the same time that I know there are many stanch friends of theirs and even people in office (viz. Sturges Bourne) still out of town, and I know that the opposition are slack in attendance, and that our majority is very large already, and will increase. But having been desired to bring people over, I cannot take upon me to say that they ought to stay away. I will of course apprise you if I should hear of any pressing necessity for his coming. When Bowes Daly comes, he ought certainly to come likewise.

Sheridan has already put off his motion. Here they think of nothing but getting people together to form a majority, without adverting to the fact that every man who comes over has a claim which must be satisfied in the course of the next summer.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[322.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 5th Feb., 1808.

I enclose the official letter from the Bishop of Meath, which you must answer officially. In respect to the last proposed, the best

thing to do would be to tell him that, in case the incumbent of the united parish should not, in his opinion, have the means of defraying the expense of the Act of Council, this expense will be defrayed by the Lord-Lieutenant.

I don't agree with the Chief Justice respecting the number of divisional offices to be established in Dublin: The great object of our measures ought to be to have a vigilant police (properly so called) in all parts of that metropolis, that every man's actions might come under its cognizance; and I don't conceive that three offices in Dublin, which are likewise to have jurisdiction in a circuit of eight miles, would insure that object. Send the bill over in its present shape, and we will see what they say to it here, and to the proposed alteration.

Put down Mr. Norton's name to be a clerk.

Let me have with the Police Bill an estimate of the probable expense of the establishment, and an account of the expense of the existing conservators of the peace.

I enclose a letter from Sir Ed. Leslie about the post at Tarbert. What passed on that subject?

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[323.]

To Brigadier-General Stewart.

MY DEAR STEWART,

London, 6th Feb., 1808.

I have received your note, and should have answered it sooner if I had not known that the Duke of Richmond had already appointed a gentleman to fill the office for which Bruce asks.

I will communicate your wishes and those of Lord Castle-reagh in favour of Bruce to the Duke of Richmond, who, I am convinced, will be happy to have an opportunity of complying with your wishes, as well on account of the regard which I know he has for Bruce as from the desire which he has to gratify you and your brother. At the same time I must add that there are few, I might say no, offices in Ireland which have not duties attached to them. This very office of Clerk of the Quit Rents, which has hitherto been a sinecure, is to be rendered efficient; and Bruce must expect that whenever he will be appointed to an office, it will be to one which will require his constant attendance.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To _____.

[324.]

SIR,

London, 6th Feb., 1808.

I have had the honour of receiving your letter of, this day, in answer to which I have to recall to your recollection that I have had no communication with you since I was appointed to the office which I have the honour to fill under the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, excepting upon one subject; and I am entirely ignorant of the ground on which you state that you have been "frequently ill-treated by his Grace's government." His Grace can have no intention to treat you otherwise than with respect, and neither his Grace nor I acting under his authority are capable of insulting anybody.

In conformity with these sentiments, I am convinced that the Duke of Richmond will be happy to have an opportunity of attending to a recommendation of yours, although no government can admit the principle on which you have claimed a right to recommend persons to fill offices which may become vacant the duties of which are to be performed on your own estate.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

— to the Hon. Sir A. Wellesley.

SIR,

Saturday Morning, 6th Feb., 1808.

Having been frequently ill-treated in Ireland by a government which I have been in the habit of supporting, I beg the favour of you candidly and decidedly to inform me whether or not it is the intention of that government to insult me; and I must request as early an answer to this inquiry as convenient, for the regulation of my future conduct.

With respect to the attempts which have been made by my Lord Hertford and my Lord O'Neill to interfere with any situation on the — estate, it is what they never presumed to do when Lord — was alive, and what I conceive they would not now have done had they given themselves time to recollect what one gentleman has a right to expect from another.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

— to the Hon. Sir A. Wellesley.

SIR,

Berkeley Square, Sunday Evening, 7th Feb., 1808.

In answer to your letter which I yesterday received, I beg leave to assure you that when I thought it necessary for me to trouble you in your official situation respecting the vacancy to which I had occasion to refer, I by no means intended to convey that I had any ground of personal complaint

against you for any inattention on your part towards me ; but, on the contrary, I felt grateful to you for the very early notice you were pleased to take of a former application I was earnestly requested to make to you.

I certainly, however, did wish to convey to you how sensible I was, and still am, to the treatment which I consider myself to have received from the government of Ireland, a government whose opinions I have, as I before mentioned to you, been in the habit for many years of supporting.

The — during his life, as well as his family before him, were uniformly consulted before any situations were given away on his own estate ; nor did Lord O'Neill, or any other person in the county, ever conceive it to be proper in them to interfere with him ; but since I have succeeded to that property there has not, I believe, been one instance where a vacancy has happened upon it that his Lordship has not made an application for it, and actually been allowed by government to nominate to it, whilst every recommendation on my part has been passed over in perfect contempt. And here, Sir, I must beg leave to remark, that I can by no means agree with you in opinion that there can be any sort of impropriety in a government attending to the representations made by gentlemen who reside on their own estates, and who must consequently know those persons who have been loyal and deserve encouragement, better than any governor of any county possibly can do, but more especially one who has, as I suppose, from a total want of local information, supplied the last vacancy (the present one excepted) in my neighbourhood by a person called Orr, whose family was the most disaffected and rebellious of almost any in the north of Ireland during the disturbances in that country.

Though this conduct towards me was certainly not such as I had any reason to expect, even from a government to which my opinions had been hostile, yet it appears highly flattering to me when compared with the insult, for such I must ever consider it, which was offered to me when I felt it my duty to remonstrate against frauds actually committed by an officer who *still* commands a yeomanry corps composed of my own tenants and raised at my own door. Were I to enter more fully at present upon this subject, it would take up too much of your time, and I only regret having been obliged to extend my letter to its present length. I shall, however, consider myself happy in taking advantage of any opportunity you can, with convenience to yourself, give me to lay this matter before you.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

[325.]

To R. V. Agnew, Esq.

SIR,

London, 6th Feb., 1808.

I perfectly recollect your son in India, whose attention to his duty induced me to recommend that he should be confirmed in his appointment of Deputy Adjutant-General at Poonah. I shall always be happy to hear of his advancement, which I am

sure he will deserve, and to aid him in it; but I have no means of aiding him in it at present, as I am not acquainted with the persons in whose hands the government of Fort St. George is at this time placed.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[326.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 8th Feb., 1808.

I enclose a letter from Charles Stewart and its enclosure, with my answer, which I hope you will approve of. If you should approve of it, will you say something to Bruce of the same kind?

Brigade-Major Crawford is Sheriff of Tyrone, and not of Donegal. Sir Samuel Hodges is the only person recommended by Lord Abercorn to be governor of the county of Donegal.

I have only to recommend, in the appointment to the office which Kemmis was to have had, and to the clerkship of stationery stores, or any other that may be vacant, to attend to the recommendation of the Irish members of parliament and respectable gentry rather than to those of persons residing in England. Westmoreland has got a following, which renders him in some degree an Irishman; but I don't see what Lord Cornwallis has to do with the little Irish patronage that there is.

I don't know anything of the Lieutenant-Governorship of Cork. If it be worth having, and is in your gift, it ought to be given to General Archdall, who has lost his arm in the service, and never got anything.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Rev. Isaac Ashe,

[327.]

SIR,

London, 8th Feb., 1808.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, and I can assure you that it is a leading

principle of the Duke of Richmond's government to render justice to the fair claims of every one as far as the means within his Grace's power will enable him to do so.

I am, Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[328.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 8th Feb., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 5th by express. I acknowledge that I do not like the new Police Bill so well as the old. It will not give us that which we require, an efficient inspection and control over the inhabitants in all parts of the city of Dublin. I don't see either on what ground the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General have made the alteration. I beg that you will state to them the grounds on which I wished to retain the Bill in the shape in which it was, in respect to the number of districts in the city; and that you will ask them to state, so that I may name them from you, the grounds on which they have made the alteration. I should like to see the Attorney-General's new notion; and beg you to send Townsend's paper upon it, as well as the notions of the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General on the districts, by express.

I recommend that you should inquire from the commissioners to what part of Ireland they intend to send one of their body, and that you should authorise them to send a commission to that part. I understand that they propose to send one of them to Cork, in order to examine into the state of the Excise there, which is all very right; but they ought not to be allowed to send one where they please without leave from government.

I wish that you would send me a copy of my letter to the Commissioners of Excise regarding quit rents, which I find has created some alarm here. It would be well also, if you should find that there is any alarm in Ireland upon it, to stop proceedings till you will hear further from me.

I enclose a letter from Dungarvan, which requires some attention. I believe that that port ought to be reinforced by troops.

I conclude that measures will be taken to prosecute the persons concerned in the rape near Waterford with the man who was killed by the dragoon.

A reward ought to be offered for the discovery and conviction of the persons concerned in the robbery of the mail between Fethard and Cashel.

Pollock's Bill must be well scrutinised and fully approved, otherwise I will not bring it in.

I enclose a letter from General Needham, and I shall be very much obliged to you if you will tell Mr. Hamilton that if he sees no objection, or knows of no person who has a better claim, I shall be obliged if he will appoint General Needham's friend to be the lock-keeper. If he sees any objection, I beg that he will not think of my request.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Hon. General Needham.

[329.]

DEAR SIR,

London, 8th Feb., 1808.

I have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 7th instant. I do not see anything in Mr. Trail's letter to Mr. Thompson which is inconsistent with what I told Lord Kilmorey and yourself. The Board of Navigation have the appointment of the office of lock-keeper on the Newry Canal, of which Mr. Trail apprises Mr. Thompson; and that the Lord-Lieutenant has never interfered in such an appointment. His Grace cannot interfere in the appointment at all, and I can interfere only by requesting as a favour to myself that the members of the Board of Navigation would appoint the person recommended by you. This has been done in order to gratify you; but I cannot be answerable for the success of my application.

In respect to the application from Mr. Caulfield, I am much concerned that I cannot interfere in it in any manner. Whatever your friends at Newry, who press these subjects upon your attention, may inform you, I assure you that the government of Ireland has not for many years interfered between the revenue and those who may have incurred the penalties of the revenue laws. Notwithstanding my inclination to oblige you, I cannot depart from a salutary rule, which has been adhered to by all my predecessors; a departure which would certainly become

public, and would expose both you and me to the animadversions of our political adversaries.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[330.]

To the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 11th Feb., 1808.

I send you the proposed bill for the public police. Since I left Ireland, the Chancellor, Chief Justice, and law officers have made an alteration in it, of which I don't entirely approve. I intended to divide the *district of the metropolis* into six divisions, with a set of police magistrates, as now proposed, in each division; the corporation to appoint half these magistrates, the government the other half. My reason for preferring six to three divisions is, that I think it desirable that the police, in order to be at all efficient, should have an active inspection and control over all parts of the town, a duty to which we know, by experience, that three police courts, if I may so call them, are not equal, although six certainly would. I have written to Ireland to have the reasons which induced the Chancellor, &c., to make the alteration in the bill, and I shall be obliged to you if you will consider it in the mean time.

The difference of expense between this new system and the existing system will turn out in favour of the former, excepting always the expense of the patrols for the neighbourhood of Dublin.

I likewise enclose a bill for the police of the country. This bill is founded upon the Irish Act of the 27th Geo. III., and goes to render the police constables provided by that Act more efficient for the purposes for which they were intended, and to give government the means of employing and paying a justice of the peace in a part of the country in which, from the danger which attends it, it is impossible to get any gentleman of the country to do the duty.

I also enclose another bill regarding forfeited recognizances in Ireland. You will hardly believe that scarcely a recognizance of any description has been recovered in Ireland for the last ten years, and that lately, when I gave directions that all the necessary steps should be taken to recover those which were out-

standing, I found it necessary to prevent the officers of the Exchequer from going further back than the last summer assizes, lest the measure should occasion disturbances in the country, which it certainly was intended to prevent.

This bill, then, goes first to excuse all recognizances entered into before the summer assizes of 1807 ; it then points out more clearly the mode in which the magistrates of the country are to proceed in admitting persons to bail ; and lastly, it extends the discretion of the judges of assize, &c., in the discharge of persons who have forfeited their bail or their recognizances. The common practice hitherto has been that, on the last day of the assizes, thirty or forty persons who may have entered into bail for the appearance of others, or into recognizance to prosecute, have appeared before the Judges and have sworn that they were not worth a shilling, having before sworn that they were worth the sums stated in their respective bail bonds ; and then the Judge, considering that he had no discretion excepting to discharge or commit them till they should pay the money, to which they had bound themselves, had uniformly discharged them.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[331.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 11th Feb., 1808.

I enclose a letter which has been received from a man who was sent into the counties of Tipperary and Limerick to inquire respecting the organization of *Liberty Rangers*, of which I had written to you. This letter contains, I believe, a true picture of the state of the dispositions of the people of those counties in general. The writer may be mistaken respecting the final political objects of the two factions.

The postscript is good, considering that the person to whom the letter is written is a surgeon.

Mr. Trail tells me that he has intelligence that the Irish Legion is at Brest, under orders to embark at a moment's notice. But I rather think the intelligence has gone from the house of Reeves and Co. in this town.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[ENCLOSURE.]

— to —.

SIR,

Nenagh, 6th Feb., 1808.

Since my last, which was from Tipperary, I went to Pallas (on the 1st), and stayed there two days, and got myself acquainted with Ryan's father and his sister Nancy; and I find his brother James is gone back, and was at a fair, which was four miles from Pallas, on the 1st day of this month, and very near being taken by some men of the name of Coffey, who had seen him at the fair, but he made his escape. To get in the father's confidence, I told him I had seen his son John, and that I made my escape from prison, and desired him to write to a man of the name of Mr. G. Dunn, who lived in the town of Kilmainham, &c., who had every indulgence in the Gaol of Kilmainham, where his son was confined, and that he would forward any letter to his son in a secret manner, and through his means he would have every information from his son. I wanted him to secrete me if he could in the most secure part of the country, and he advised me as I was a stranger there I could not stay in that country with any safety. I spent the entire of the two days with him, and could not make out where his son was, though I made him drunk twice. He is a well-informed old man, and I believe his son James supplies him with plenty of money, as he had it very free, making some of the country fellows drink whiskey. He seemed very fond of me, and still could not make out from him where his son James was; but the sister told me he was at Bilboa, to which place I went the 3rd to the house of a man of the name of Humphrys, but Ryan was not there; the servant-maid told me he went across the mountains towards Lower Ormond. I lay at a country-house by the river's side in a bog, and went next day to Capper White, which is a little village in the mountains. I lay there, and the people seemed very quiet, and attentive to their business. I wanted to know if they would make me a Shaunavest, as that is the strongest party in the country; and they said I could not be admitted one unless I could swear to reside in the country, and that no stranger would be allowed to associate amongst them at all; that the people got enough from strangers. The Shaunavest party is the lower order of the Catholics, who are sworn Republicans; and the Caravats are the Catholic party inclined to royalty; and the Protestants join the Caravats, and the Shaunavests are sworn to destroy the other party if they can; and whenever they meet each other day or night they beat one another most unmerciful, and even kill at times. A man of the name of John Finn, who lives in Tipperary, told me that whenever they go to take arms they generally ride thirty miles of a night and return the same distance before morning. He is a Shaunavest, he told me himself, and that they had plenty of arms; and I asked him what would they do for arms, ammunition, &c.? He said when the French come and that the people break out they will have the arms of every man that falls, and his ammunition, &c.; that they had some very good friends in some of the militia regiments, too, that were as ready to assist the French as they would. I met a man in Tipperary who told me the magistrates even wink at their proceedings in that neighbourhood, and some more who would wish to do their duty are afraid of being burned or killed if they made themselves any way obnoxious to the people by interfering. Indeed, Sir, I find every mind in the country poisoned to rebellion; but they say they won't do anything until the French

come, and that they can't be worse under any kind of government than they are at present. That is the general opinion of every description of people in this part of the country. They are damned cunning in letting any stranger know anything of their doings. I assure you I could not find anything of their secrets, though I have tried every artifice, by avowing myself an utter enemy to the present constitution, and even drinking seditious toasts, though they seemed to like me for so doing; and still I could not make any hand of them anywhere, more than to find they are actually inclined to rebellion in every quarter of the country through which I have passed. Even in the mountains they are as bad as in the towns. I came across the mountains from Capper White to Kilcommon, and came into Nenagh to-day. I am in company with a man of the name of Cowen, a noted man in the county. He is a man I expect to get some information from. He is a smith and bellhanger, and goes through the country-gentlemen's houses, and from town to town. The people in this town seem to be very quiet, as he tells me; and he says only they are afraid of the army, they would be as well inclined as the upper part of the county. From Carrick-on-Suir to Limerick and towards Charleville is the most disturbed part of the country. They will not allow any stranger to be among them in their nocturnal visits, for fear of any discovery. A whole village, as I am told, goes off together twenty or thirty miles of a night to execute their design against one of the opposite party.

I am now within about thirty-four miles of home, and I have not seen my father or mother this eight years; and I hope you will not be displeased with my going there for two days, and probably it might be as useful as where I have been, and particularly if anything exists in my own neighbourhood, I can't but be in possession of it, as a great deal of my own friends I think are much inclined to rebellion; and if there exists anything of the kind there, I know I'll be in full possession of it. If old Ryan writes, be very particular in answering it; and I have not the smallest doubt but there may be something found in his letters that may be of service. He wanted to know from me if I heard when he would be transmitted, and what road, as they would run the risk, he said, of rescuing him even at any hazard: sooner, he said, than he should be hanged, they would hazard any risk. I think it would be very wise to keep him in Kilmainham as long as possible, as they will now write to him, and by that means some of the rest of his party may be found. As for any regular organization among the people in this country, there is no such thing by any means; for I have tried every means to find such out. The whole is nothing but factious quarrels and animosities among themselves, and a kind of revengeful spirit that exists among the different factions in the country; but at the same time they are all of a disposition ready to take an active part in anything that might tend to weaken and destroy the present government.

I am, Sir, your obedient and humble servant,

P.S. I have got a very severe cold from the fatigues of crossing the mountains and the wet I have got in crossing the rivers, but feel myself better to-day. I got some sweet-oil and hartshorn to my neck, bathed my feet, and took some nitre-whey, and that relieved me very much.

[332.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 11th Feb., 1808.

I enclose a Bill to compel the residence of the clergy in Ireland, with Mr. Perceval's remarks upon it. It is nearly the same (indeed, exactly the same as far as the law in Ireland and circumstances required) as Sir William Scott's law in England. As soon as the Cabinet will have determined upon this measure, it will be desirable to send it to the Archbishop of Canterbury and to the Primate of Ireland. If they should approve of it, we will consult the Irish Bishops in London, and I will bring in the Bill.

The clause to which the Irish Attorney-General and Mr. Perceval object was introduced from a desire to palliate the opposition which will certainly be made to the Bill by the Irish members; and from another principle, which is a very favourite one in Ireland, viz., to put the Church in both countries precisely on the same footing. It is not very probable that many Irish clergymen will have an opportunity of availing themselves of the causes of absence from their benefices stated in this clause; but as they are allowed by law to English clergymen, they ought to be likewise to those of Ireland. I don't think that the legal objection to the clause stated by the Attorney-General is well founded.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[333.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 12th Feb., 1808.

You will have heard of the death of Lord Thomond. He had a blue riband, and was Custos Rotulorum of the county of Clare. I have communicated with Lord Hawkesbury about the former, and knowing your wishes in favour of Lord Shannon, have recommended that it should be given to him.

Burton spoke to me last night about the office of Custos Rotulorum of Clare; and I recommend that you should prevail upon the Chancellor to give it to Lord Conyngham, and at the same time appoint Lord Conyngham governor of Clare.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[334.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 13th Feb., 1808.

I received your letter of the 10th yesterday evening. If there is a vacant Clerk's office, it would be desirable to give it to Mr. Galbraith's friend, and I shall be obliged to you if you will take the Lord-Lieutenant's pleasure upon that appointment.

The Lord-Lieutenant agreed to the proposed arrangement of a Deputy Warehouse Keeper of Stamped Goods to be appointed, and that the Warehouse Keeper of Unstamped Goods should be the person. His salary ought to be 150*l.* per annum, and he, as well as the present Warehouse Keeper of Stamped Goods, ought to be responsible for the duty of the office. There is some difficulty respecting the security given by the Warehouse Keeper; but I conceive that difficulty to be of little importance, and if the Warehouse Keeper starts it, he must be dismissed from his office on account of incapacity. Although the Lord-Lieutenant approved of this arrangement, I beg that you will take his pleasure again upon it, lest he should have forgotten it; and that you will propose to him to give the office of Warehouse Keeper of Stamped Goods to Sir John Newport's friend, Mr. Francis Doyle, or if he should not approve of that arrangement, then propose to him to allow the promotion to go in the office.

I must refer you to my letters to you and to the Duke, of the 4th instant, for my opinions respecting the offices of Surveyor-General. The Board of Customs must, of course, settle whether they will keep one Surveyor-General purposely for the port of Dublin; but my opinion is that he ought not to have a superior salary to those of the others.

I will see Mr. Jackson respecting our rules for promotion in the Excise.

The task of keeping Ireland quiet and collecting a large revenue for the country, and adopting all the fanciful arrangements of Lord Annesley and others upon this point, is a most difficult one, to which I am afraid that I am not equal. It is most important that Mr. Aylmer should remain at Naas, and I doubt whether any adequate advantage will be derived from removing him to Carlow. I shall speak to Mr. Foster upon this subject.

It is quite impossible to grant to Mr. Aylmer the favour which he now demands. He ought to be satisfied with the present

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government, and should have made his claims on those who preceded us.

Mr. Smith should be forced to accept or decline the offer made to him for his brother. I have recommended Alderman Pemberton to the Lord-Lieutenant for the vacant seat at the Paving Board, being convinced that he is the most capable and fittest person we could find for it.

I am convinced that I am right about the Police Bill. We must take the extra expense, if there should be any, from the Consolidated Fund.

The principle on which the retirement from the Post Office should be regulated should be two-thirds of the salary for twenty-five years' service, and a proportionate reduction of pension if the claimant should not have served that number of years, but should be obliged to discontinue his service on account of bad health acquired in the performance of his duty. See what Lord Clancarty says upon this subject. The compensation will not be so high as in other branches of the revenue; but as this is an entirely new system introduced into the Post Office, it is as well to adopt an arrangement which is more economical, and will be likely to be more generally approved, than that already existing in Ireland.

No promise has been made to Mr. Gordon to succeed to Mr. Deane, at least that I know of; and we must not allow Mr. Deane to vacate his office as he proposes, he being in good health.

Mr. Jenkins's application stands upon other grounds, and must be decided according to its merits. But I never can admit that Mr. ———, the parson, has a claim to an office of that description for his son, or indeed to any office. I have long suspected him to be a mere boaster, and my eyes have been completely opened to his character and claims by a letter which he wrote to me very lately.

The Lord-Lieutenant will make his own arrangements respecting the office which Mr. Kemmis was to have had.

In the letter which I received from Mr. Canning respecting the proposed exchange of livings between Mr. Tisdall and Mr. Dunlavin, the loss of patronage was contemplated, and the Lord-Lieutenant was aware of it; but it would be desirable not to incur this loss, if possible; and I am convinced that the Bishop of Cork will be disposed to adopt any arrangement which may be

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proposed upon that subject, and shall be obliged to you if you will speak to him. The expense of the presentations is quite out of the question.

Pray let the Orders in Council be considered in reference to the Act of Unión.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I hope that Brigade-Major Rogers and Brigade-Major Crawford have been written to for evidence on oath of the transactions to which they have referred in their letters. Have the military arrangements in Tipperary and Waterford been discontinued, or have the troops been less active?

To the Duke of Richmond.

[335.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 13th Feb., 1808.

You have my opinion respecting the arrangement of the Excise offices in my letters to you and Mr. Trail of the 4th instant. It is a most difficult task to steer between the claims of individuals and the political objects of government and the interests of the revenue and the fancies of Lord Annesley. But I conceive that he will have no reason to complain if you take only one Inspector-General's office, and I am of opinion that Adderley will be satisfied with it. I rather believe that Lord Sligo wanted a Surveyor-General's office for a friend of his in lieu of some other office which he expected would be abolished, but which still exists. If this be the case, the Surveyor-General's office will be in your gift: should it not be so, Lord Sligo's friend must have it, if he be a qualified person. I will look over his letters and make inquiry regarding this claim of his, and will write to you again in a day or two.

You have my opinion about the vacant seat at the Paving Board; I am convinced that Alderman Pemberton is the fittest man.

I have spoken to the Duke of Portland and Lord Hawkesbury about the blue riband for Lord Shannon, and I have every reason to believe that I shall get it for him; but I will write to you again upon that subject.

I have already given you my opinion about Judge Day's claim to the living at Cork.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

If you should vacate Molesworth's office at Drogheda, remember Foster's claim to it. I am still of opinion that there is no occasion for hurrying over the Irish members.

[336.]

To Robert Shaw, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

London, 14th Feb., 1808.

I have received your two letters relative to the vacancy which has occurred at the Paving Board, and I am sorry that I cannot recommend to the Lord-Lieutenant the arrangement which you propose for filling that vacancy. I told you at the time when the Paving Act was passed last summer, that government, in making the appointments under that Act, must have a view to the due execution of the measure which it was intended to accomplish, and must not be guided by any considerations of patronage or of favour towards individuals. I was happy in having the opportunity to comply with your request in favour of Alderman Hutton, and I should have great satisfaction in forwarding your wishes on the present occasion, if I could do so consistently with my public duty; but I am persuaded that, when you reflect upon the subject, you will not think it reasonable to claim a second nomination so soon after the former one, especially in exclusion of a person so very well qualified in all respects for the situation in question as Alderman Pemberton undoubtedly is.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[337.]

To Mr. ———.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 14th Feb., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 9th instant relative to the appointment of your relation to the vacant living at Cork. I understood, both from a letter which I received from you last year, and from frequent conversation with you—particularly

our last conversation—that the living was a mere trifle in value, and not worth more than 30*l.* per annum, and so I represented it in the different conversations I had with the Lord-Lieutenant respecting it. I perfectly recollect the last conversation I had with you, in which I stated my intention to endeavour to remove the repugnance which the Lord Lieutenant had to allow a son to succeed to his father; but I did not think the matter was very pressing, and I had no opportunity of talking to his Grace about it immediately before I left Ireland.

At present, as the living is so much more valuable than you ever represented it to be, either to me or the Lord Lieutenant, I cannot consider myself or his Grace at all bound to give it to your nephew by anything that has passed. In my opinion, his Grace would perform all that he ever could have intended to hold out by giving your nephew a living worth 100*l.* per annum; and he will do much more if he should give him a living of 400*l.* per annum.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[338.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 15th Feb., 1808.

I received your letter of the 11th last night. I think it is best to fill up the place at the Paving Board, and I am sure that Pemberton is the fittest man for it. Let me know when you will have decided upon the point, that I may write to Shaw, who has applied for Mr. Lees.

I have a letter from Mr. Smith, in which he objects to the proposed removal of his brother to the office of Clerk of the Stationery. I have desired him to write his final determination upon that subject to Mr. Trail. Whatever determination you may come to, it will be necessary to provide for Captain Tromball in the arrangement; as, conceiving that it would be carried into execution in the manner that it had been determined upon, I told Lord Westmoreland that Captain Tromball would have Mr. Smith's office of Paymaster. I am entirely unacquainted with the merits of Frood and Mr. MacGuise; and as I know that the patron of neither of them can do you any good in Ireland, I cannot make up my mind to

give you any opinion upon their claims. Sir Hercules is a respectable man, and an old servant of the public, whose recommendation ought to be attended to, and I believe that his son-in-law is likewise respectable.

Possibly it would do to appoint Tromball to the Debenture Office, vacated, I believe, by Charles Sheridan; and St. George Clerk of the Information Books, which Kemmis has refused; and you have still the office of Clerk of the Stationery. Then comes Lord Rosse's recommendation of Mr. Elwood, a Clerk in the Stationery Office, who had a claim to be promoted.

In short, at this distance, and not having the papers before me, or the means of ascertaining the degree of weight which you give to the different recommendations, I cannot pretend to give you a decided opinion.

I have told you what I think about the living of Cork. I doubt much whether Daly will accept of it, but it is as well to offer it.

Ever yours,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I think that Trail ought to endeavour to prevail upon the Bishop of Cork to consent to an arrangement in reference to an exchange between Mr. Tisdall and Mr. Dunlavy by which the Crown will not lose its turn of presentation. But if the Bishop should not consent to this arrangement, you probably will not stop the exchange, considering that Canning, who applied for it, stated the possibility of this inconvenience when he made the application.

339.]

To Colonel Anstruther.

DEAR ANSTRUTHER,

London, 16th Feb., 1868.

We are very anxious here respecting the probability that we shall be obliged to discharge a considerable number of the men now serving in the garrison battalions in Ireland in the course of this year, and I wish much to be able to show the probable deficiency of force which this necessity will occasion in that country. I shall, therefore, be much obliged to you if you will send me over, as soon as possible, a state of the number of men serving in each of those battalions who will have a right to

their discharge in this and the next two years, made up as far as the returns in your office will enable you.

Tell Gordon that I have received his letter, to which I will reply at the first moment I have leisure. But really I am considered here very much in the light of the *willing horse*, upon whose back every man thinks he has a right to put the saddle, and I have little time to do anything. But I attend to all that he has recommended.

Remember me most kindly to Mrs. Anstruther, whose foot, I hope, is by this time quite well, and

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To C. P. Leslie, Esq.

[340.]

MY DEAR LESLIE,

London, 17th Feb., 1808.

I have received your letter of yesterday's date, recommending Sir Charles Coote to fill the vacant seat at the Paving Board in Dublin. It will always afford me great satisfaction to have an opportunity of complying with any wish of yours, but I cannot at present give any positive answer upon this subject.

The duties of the Paving Board are very important to the city of Dublin, and the government is absolutely bound to the public to supply any vacancy at that Board by appointing the person who shall be the fittest for the situation, without reference to any consideration of patronage.

Sir Charles Coote's name has been favourably mentioned to the Lord Lieutenant as one of the candidates for the office in question, and his claim will be duly considered by his Grace in comparison with the qualifications of other competitors for the same situation.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[341.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 19th Feb., 1808.

I received your letter of the 15th last night. You did quite right not to allow either of the parties in Donegal to nominate the sheriff.

Mr. Pollock is the agent of certain seceders from the dissenters in the north of Ireland, which seceders have an allowance from government. They are desirous of having this allowance increased, and have had some encouragement from Mr. Foster, and heretofore from Lord Castlereagh. They gave me their petition, but had from me only a civil answer, stating generally that I would inquire into, and would consider of their request. I rather believe that it would be most politic to refrain from giving these people an additional sum, as such a gift would tend only to encourage additional seceders. However, I will inquire further into the business. I have had a conversation lately with Foster respecting it.

I am afraid that as Lord Conyngham and Burton have certainly the return for the county of Clare in their hands, you will be under the necessity of giving them the office of Custos Rotulorum.

Lord Hawkesbury told me last night that he had written to beg you to offer the blue riband to Lord Shannon. I hope Daly will take the prebend: at all events the offer must please him.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[342.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 19th Feb., 1808.

I received your letter of the 16th last night. As coals are sold at the public coal-yards at a cheaper rate than elsewhere, it is no hardship to insist upon receiving money for them at the rate at which the Bank will take it, or in such coins as the Bank will receive. Colonel Saubey must, therefore, refuse to receive dollars. I understand that the Bank buy those coins at 4s. 6d. English each; and he must sell to the Bank those which he has at that rate, and must be forbidden to take any more. If he can make a better bargain for the disposal of them than by selling them to the Bank, let him do so.

I enclose a letter from Mr. Crawford, which Mr. Foster put into my hands last night. I shall be much obliged to you if you will urge the Attorney and Solicitor-General to go through the Stamp Act as soon as they can.

I also beg you to get from the Board of Navigation the petition from the county of Tipperary regarding the canal and the plan of their canal, and the report of the Board on the plan; and likewise the same papers respecting the Wicklow Canal. The 26th of this month is, I believe, the last day for receiving private petitions; and as it is absolutely necessary that it should be in the House before that day, I beg you to return these papers by express.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I beg you to look into the drawers of my table for the petition from the seceders from the Ulster Synod, and send it to me by express.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon.

[343.]

MY DEAR COLONEL,

London, 19th Feb., 1808.

I send you two papers for His Royal Highness's perusal; one relating to the scheme in contemplation for fortifying Ireland, the other relating to the system of measures to be adopted in case an attack should be made on that country. This last paper was drawn up in order to bring the subject under the consideration of Lord Harrington and the Duke of Richmond, and that we might all improve our ideas upon it by talking it over. I think it probable that I might see reason for altering some of the opinions which this paper contains, although I rather believe that Lord Harrington and the officers of the staff approve of it so far as to have made up their minds to adopt its suggestions if the supposed plan of attack should be carried into execution by the enemy.

The collection of the different corps is founded, of course, upon the distribution of the army which existed when the paper was written.

I must also mention to you that I have it in contemplation to open a road in this season across the Sleeve Boom Mountains, by which the communication between the Shannon and the Barrow will be shortened one march, and this is a material improvement of the plan.

The Duke will wish to see these papers before he will meet Lord Chatham and Lord Hawkesbury to-morrow.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[344.]

To the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 20th Feb., 1808.

I send with this a plan of the harbour of Holyhead with the proposed improvements, and a report and an estimate of the expense of completing them, framed by an engineer whom I had sent there from Dublin in November last. I had already drawn your attention to this subject in the last session of Parliament.

In addition to the great political advantage to be derived from rendering the communication between Great Britain and Ireland as short and as convenient as may be possible, it is very desirable, on account of the trade of both countries, that some harbours should be made in St. George's Channel. When I was at Holyhead in October last, I saw no less than nine vessels ashore there, which had been driven in in one of the gales which had lately occurred; and the many accidents and losses of troops, &c., which we have sustained during the winter, all of which would have been avoided if there had been a place of safety on either side of the Channel, point out most forcibly the necessity of making the improvement at Holyhead.

I should recommend you to vote a sum of money on account of this plan and estimate in this session of Parliament, to refer the plan to the gentlemen of the Trinity House, and to have it executed under their directions.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[345.]

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 23rd Feb., 1808.

I am very much obliged to your Lordship for your letter of the 13th, and the abstract of the school returns which I have received. I am convinced that the number of persons educated in Ireland is much larger than we have any idea of.

We are opposed by the most active and the most persevering, though not the most able and judicious opposition that ever existed in England. I agree very much in opinion with you respecting their leader, who never appeared to me to have a

sufficiency of general knowledge for the situation in which he has been placed, or the head of a statesman.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[346.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 23rd Feb., 1808.

I received your letters of the 17th and 18th yesterday. I rather believe that, upon the whole, it would be best to give the office of Inspector-General to an officer of Excise, and to allow the Board of Excise to recommend a person for it. It would not be a very desirable office for any body excepting a person already in the Excise; you do not want it at this moment; and it is certainly very important, with a view to the Excise revenue, which has risen 500,000*l.* in the last year, that the officers of the Excise should be encouraged to look for the promotion which may fall in their own branch. If there should be any future deficiency of revenue, it will be attributed to this appointment; and I should be apprehensive, considering the temper of Lord ———, that the person to be appointed would lead but an uncomfortable kind of life. You will see by the enclosed letter from Mr. Ponsonby, and my answer to it, that you have another vacancy which you might give to Adderley, which will settle every thing.

I wait till Denis Browne's arrival to find out how Lord Sligo feels about the office of Surveyor-General.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I have had a wrangle or two with Pole about his objects, which has ended in a letter from him which I enclose, with my answer to it.

To W. Ponsonby, Esq.

[347.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 23rd Feb., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 14th instant, which I propose to transmit to the Lord-Lieutenant. But I must at the

same time inform you that I do not think it will be in his Grace's power to allow you and Mr. Crosbie to recommend a gentleman to be appointed collector of Tralee instead of yourself; and as there are no offices in Ireland which have not duties attached to them, which require the constant attendance and attention of those that hold them, I much fear that some time will elapse before his Grace will have it in his power to give you an office which will suit you so well as that which he has lately offered to your acceptance.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[348.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 23rd Feb., 1808.

I have received your letters of the 13th, 14th, and 15th instant.

I don't know what to say to the application of the Commissioners of Customs which I return. I wish it had been signed by the First Commissioner. Upon the whole I am convinced that the only mode of proceeding is to give no more than the proportion of the pension for the number of years' service, excepting in cases in which wounds may have been received, or an illness may have been immediately acquired by the performance of some particular service.

I am afraid of this patent of Woodmason's. I would not extend it beyond their lives. If it be extended beyond that term, they will sell the patent, and the business will not be performed by them. There ought likewise to be a clause to oblige them to supply what is required to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Excise and Customs; and that if the Commissioners of Excise and Customs should be desirous to alter the description of their books and accounts, Woodmason is to supply those which they will require at as low a rate as they can be received from other persons; and that they are not to part with the patent. If these conditions are not accepted, I would recommend the Lord-Lieutenant to adhere to the old mode of contract.

The yeomanry may be put off permanent duty, as proposed by Brigade-Major Harding.

Kendrick ought immediately to be required to give security to the amount of 2000*l.* at least.

A letter ought to be written to the Secretary of State respecting the convicts for transportation ; and let me know when you will despatch it, that I may speak to Lord Hawkesbury upon the subject at the time he will receive it.

I enclose the abstracts of the Bishop of Meath's school returns, and I shall be obliged to you if you will let me have a total of the number educated in each diocese, under the four heads, as soon as you will receive all the returns.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Hon. Francis Prittie.

[349.]

SIR,

London, 24th Feb., 1808.

As Colonel Matthew is, I understand, gone to Ireland, and as the period for presenting private petitions will expire the day after to-morrow, I enclose the copy of a petition from certain gentlemen of the county of Tipperary, which he had given me for consideration, in case you should be desirous of presenting the original petition in Colonel Matthew's absence.

At the same time I must inform you that, as the Navigation Board in Ireland, to whose consideration this petition was referred, have not reported an opinion in its favour, I shall consider it my duty to recommend the House not to grant the prayer of this petition.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Stephen Lushington, Esq.

[350.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Harley Street, 24th Feb., 1808.

I shall be much obliged to you if you will have the goodness to let me have this day, if possible, a list of the papers contained in your book, relative to the Polygar rebellion, which you think bear upon that question, which are dated prior to the orders to Colonel Bannerman in 1799, and upon which, in your opinion, those orders may have been founded.

I enclose a note from Mr. Meheux on that subject, which shows how urgently this paper is required.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[351.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 24th Feb., 1808.

I think it would be desirable to point out to the Board of Excise the great expense which has heretofore attended the circuits and inspections by Commissioners ; and on that ground to request the Board to state what district more particularly requires inspection, and order one accordingly ; and that the Lord-Lieutenant will authorise further inspections, if, upon experience, it should be found that benefit adequate to the expense has resulted from the measure.

I have advised the Lord-Lieutenant to take the recommendation of the Board of Excise for the appointment of the Inspector-General.

I think a letter ought to be written to the Board of Excise expressive of the Lord-Lieutenant's satisfaction at the result of the inquiry respecting the charge against Mr. FitzGibbon.

I think that troops ought to be sent as suggested by Mr. Elliott, or the Cloneen yeomanry ought to be put on permanent duty. •

I enclose a pamphlet respecting Doyle, which Sir John Newport gave me, the perusal of which induced me to recommend him to the Lord-Lieutenant. Show this pamphlet to him.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[352.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 24th Feb., 1808.

I propose speaking to Lord Castlereagh about Mr. Pollock's claims on account of the seceders. He knows more about this class of people than any of us. I made him no promise excepting that I would inquire, and take his wishes into consideration.

I know ————— well ; he is the most teasing, persevering fellow in the world.

I don't know whether you might not consider Sir George Hill's application as a notification of Sir James Stewart's to give him the tide surveyorship. We must keep on good terms

with Lord Conyngham, but we must not quarrel with Lord Abercorn.

I don't recollect what passed respecting the appointment of a sheriff for Sligo, but it does not signify, as Mr. O'Hara's letter requires no answer.

I see no reason why Mr. Pollock should come over here.

I believe that as the vacancies in the appointments of clerks occurred before our arrangements were entirely settled, you may take the recommendations of the Commissioners, but in future this practice must be prevented.

Mr. Smith's letter does not much signify.

I wish that you would speak to Lord Annesley and Lord Castle Coote respecting the balances in the hands of the collectors, and tell them that I am very anxious they should be kept at the standard ordered by government, and that if that standard should be passed (and, as in the case of Sligo, it should appear that it is done regularly), and for any other cause excepting an accidental circumstance, I shall be under the necessity of recommending the Lord-Lieutenant to dismiss the collector.

I also request you to bring under the notice of the Lord-Lieutenant the sixth Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry, particularly that part relating to the conduct of Mr. ———, Mr. ———, and Mr. ——— in persuading a gauger to give false information to those Commissioners. My opinion is, that the three ought to be dismissed from their situations, and that Mr. ——— should be warned of the impropriety of his conduct.

I request you to urge the law officers to expedite the bills which they have under their consideration; particularly the Stamp Act, Warehousing Act, the Act for Abolishing Fees, and the Act for Allowing the Exportation of Spirits, &c.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Captain Puget.

[353.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 24th Feb., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 21st, and shall be very glad if, through the medium of any of those friends whose names you mention, you should succeed in obtaining promotion for your

friend Mr. Evans. I have already twice recommended Mr. Evans to the favourable notice of Lord Mulgrave, and should have great pleasure in giving him any further aid in my power which should be likely to facilitate the attainment of his object; but the fact is, that Lord Mulgrave is unwilling to promote any officer employed upon a home station; and that I, from my official station, am under the necessity of making such frequent applications to him on similar subjects, that I really believe my recommendation of Mr. Evans must, on that account, lose all the weight which it might otherwise have. My own opinion is, that Mr. Evans's best chance of promotion is to apply for employment upon a foreign station, with a recommendation from Lord Mulgrave to the Admiral of that station. If it should be your wish for me to apply to Lord Mulgrave for the purpose which I have just mentioned, I will immediately do so; but I cannot feel confident that I should succeed even to that extent.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[354.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 24th Feb., 1808.

I have just received your letters of the 19th and 20th.

Consistently with the rules which you have laid down for the disposal of the local patronage, and which have not been departed from, excepting in the case of Donegal, where Lord Conyngham suffers from the partiality of government and the desire to conciliate Lord Abercorn, I do not see how you can refrain from making Conyngham the Custos Rotulorum of Clare. He brings in one member for that county who supports government decidedly, and has a considerable share in bringing in the other, whom Burton has prevailed upon to stay away, and who would support, if we could make an arrangement for him. It would be hard upon Conyngham, if, having a decided and preponderating influence in two counties, by which he brings in members for both who support government, he should have the influence of neither. We cannot give him the entire of Donegal, and indeed only a share of it privately, and he can be compensated only by having the whole of Clare.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[355.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 26th Feb., 1808.

I have received your letters of the 21st and 22nd. I intended to state to the Commissioners in the letter in which Mr. Gifford's appointment should be announced, that it was the Lord Lieutenant's intention that he should return to the service of the revenue with all the advantages of his former length of service, as it did not appear to his Grace that he had been dismissed on account of any crime committed as a revenue officer. If this can still be done, I shall be glad of it; if it cannot, let any other mode be adopted of carrying into execution the Lord-Lieutenant's wishes to do Mr. Gifford this justice.

The best mode of settling the affair of the 90*l.* per annum surplus of the grant of 3000*l.* per annum, is for Mr. Taylor to allow an arrear now to remain in the Treasury to the full amount of the accumulated surplus, and hereafter to draw only for 2910*l.* per annum. It can be settled in this manner without any difficulty.

I will speak to my brother about Sir E. Denny's claim.

I conclude that you will have sent down 10,000*l.* in silver to Cork.

I wish that you would send me over the papers regarding Mr. Kent's claim.

Probably the best mode of proceeding in respect to Mr. Beetham's case would be to let the King-at-arms, who, I conclude, must be interested, present a petition upon it.

It would certainly be advisable to allow Mr. Mole to quit Pallis if he should no longer be of use.

I think there would be but little objection to allow Lord Enniskillen to keep his post town at Florence Court, notwithstanding that the mail will run by the new line. However, upon this point Lord Clancarty must be the best judge, and will of course give an opinion.

If Mr. William Stewart refuse to serve as sheriff of Donegal, I recommend you to take the second upon the list, and not the positive recommendation of either of the parties.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[356.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 27th Feb., 1808.

I must speak to Mr. Foster respecting Croker's apartments. It would be a curious circumstance if we should not have room for Customs and Excise in the Customhouse buildings, considering their enormous extent and the sum of money which they have cost the public.

I wish you would call upon Colonel Tottenham to send up informations on oath of the outrages said to have been committed in the county of Wexford, and to state what measures of vigour he proposes should be adopted. The whole story is evidently a plan for getting troops into the country in order to enable somebody to let his lands at a higher rent than ought to be paid for them. I have seen nothing of Beever's letter referred.

I shall be obliged to you if you will send me, by express, all the papers you have in your office respecting the offer and acceptance of Mr. Croker's resignation. This case is to be tried here, and a principal question will be the period of the offer and acceptance of his resignation. He says he made it by letter and by deed.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[357.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 27th Feb., 1808.

I enclose a letter received from Mr. Sandys, the gentleman lately appointed to Fiddown, who vacated Aghadowey for Mr. Carleton, and Laracor for Mr. Brinkley. Fiddown was given to him as about 400*l.* per annum, and he was not hurried to accept it, but was allowed ample time to inquire respecting its value, its situation, &c., &c. I conceive, therefore, that he has no claim to any remuneration for the loss which he now pretends to have sustained, and, if you approve of it, I will tell him so.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Fiddown is called in a late publication on tithes 1500*l.* per annum.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[358.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 27th Feb., 1808.

I received your letter of the 23rd by express last night. You have my opinion on the appointments to the offices of Surveyor-General and Inspector-General of the Excise. If you should not allow the office of Surveyor-General to go in the line of the Excise, I am inclined to think it is too large an office for Mr. Smith.

I sent you Mr. Magont's letter to Bligh, only to show you the description of claim which the country gentlemen of Ireland are disposed to bring forward, which is certainly not a bad one; viz. that they do the business of government in the country in their capacities of magistrates in preventing frauds on the revenue, and of deputy-governors in raising men for the service of the army. If they would all act in this manner, the government of Ireland would be an easy task, and such conduct deserves encouragement. As for —, he deserves nothing but contempt, though I don't know that he has ever positively opposed us.

I will call upon Lord Thomond when he comes to town.

We have hard work in Parliament. Every night a long debate, and as many as two and three divisions. The opposition most violent and persevering, and their adherents constant in their attendance, to the number of about seventy or eighty, every night. Our friends very naturally do not attend so well; but we must keep them to their work as well as we can. The business advances but slowly.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I send you a letter which I have received from the King's pages; shall I pay the thirty guineas for you?

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

[359.]

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 29th Feb., 1808.

In my opinion the barrack system existing in Ireland is, in many respects, much better and more fit for the country than that in England. The latter is entirely incompatible with the state of the temporary barracks in Ireland. I doubt the practical expediency of giving even the utensils in kind: I, however,

will talk over the subject with Lord Hawkesbury, according to the Lord-Lieutenant's orders which you have conveyed to me; but I am confident that, even if there should be no objection on this side the water to the proposed change, we ought not to adopt it till the officers who have served, and are acquainted with the service, in Ireland shall have reviewed all the regulations in question, and shall have considered the subject maturely and decided which ought to be adopted now, which when we shall have better and permanent barracks, and which ought to be rejected as entirely inapplicable to the situation of the country.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[360.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 2nd March, 1808.

I shall be obliged to you if you will return to Mr. Hamilton the accompanying Report from the Board of Navigation, and tell him that I have had a conversation with Mr. Perceval upon the subject of it, who approves the substance, and is of opinion that it will be desirable to lay the Report before Parliament; but he thinks that it will be best to bring it forward in the form of a general Report on the Inland Navigation of Ireland, without any reference to the petitions from the counties of Wicklow and Tippérary; for which purpose it will be necessary to omit the first two paragraphs of the Report as it now stands.

It is also desirable that the Report should contain a general statement of the expenditure of the 500,000*l.*, and to what purposes applied.

Let me have the Report, amended as proposed, as soon as possible.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[361.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 3rd March, 1808.

I have had two or three conversations with Lord Castlereagh, and one this day with Lord Abercorn, respecting late transac-

tions in the county of Donegal, with which he is by no means pleased. He is more anxious to have the credit of the support and the influence of government than the advantage which he or his friends might derive from the actual enjoyment of it; and he is particularly annoyed by an expression made use of by you in a conversation with Galbraith, in which you classed him with Lord Conyngham in the description of "two Northern lords." In short, the question appears to resolve itself into this proposition; either Lord Abercorn must have the patronage of Donegal, or government will lose his support. I have represented the difficulty of settling this matter without doing injustice to Lord Conyngham, but all in vain; the government here, who, after all, must decide, as they will be the losers, prefer even the loss of Lord Conyngham's support to keeping Lord Abercorn out of temper; and therefore we must consider the question as decided, and act accordingly. Lord Castlereagh, however, appears to think that we may manage Conyngham by prevailing upon Lord Abercorn to give him up those things for which he may ask; and to do Lord Abercorn justice, he told me this day that we should never find him unwilling to accommodate government, and that he should consider it a point of honour to do so, in order to retain the support of Lord Conyngham, provided it was understood that he was to have the patronage of Donegal and Tyrone. I told him that I was sure that you were desirous of doing anything to show your respect and regard for him; that the expression of which he complained, and which you had used in conversing with Galbraith, could have referred only to your regret that there had been a contest in Donegal; that Sir Samuel Hayes was to be appointed a governor of that county; and that, as to the sheriff, the first upon the list was taken, as Mr. Galbraith had first recommended one, and then withdrawn his recommendation; and that as government could be of no use to either party at the election, a line of neutrality had been adopted with the knowledge and consent of Mr. Galbraith, from which line it had not been deemed expedient to depart at so early a period after the election was over. It is evident that Galbraith prevailed upon Stewart to decline the appointment of sheriff, in order that he might appoint the person who should succeed to him; and it appears that he is now determined on endeavouring to prevail upon Stewart to act; and if he should not succeed, I think that Lord Abercorn will be

reconciled to the appointment of the second upon the list, if it should have been made before you receive this letter. But if it should not have been made, I rather recommend you to take Abercorn's recommendation.

What I cannot bear in this is, that it is acting contrary to rules which are invariable in this country; but we cannot help it; we have done our best to set things right, and the wrong must be attributed to the government here.

Lord Conyngham has no additional claim on account of the return of Montgomery, for Montgomery is independent, and Lord Conyngham has no claim upon him, excepting that of giving him support.

Ever, my dear Duke, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Montgomery's advertisement has contributed to put Lord Abercorn in a rage, as much as your classing him with Lord Conyngham.

[362.]

To the Earl of Clancarty.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 4th March, 1808.

I have received your letter of the 26th February, and I will consider of and bring in the Bill which you have drawn.

In respect to my breach of two articles of our treaty, first, I have to inform you that I always intended that you should yourself order the officers in question to London at the time most convenient to yourself and to the office, and to enforce whatever you should determine upon that point; secondly, the gentleman appointed Accountant-General was bred to the bar, and is actually a practising barrister, and I concluded must be qualified. However, if he be not so, if he be inattentive to his duty, or will not do what you choose, it is stipulated, and clearly understood, that he goes out.

I hope soon to shake you by the hand. Our parliamentary campaign is most severe. Two or three or more divisions every night, and four nights out of five late. Last night, or rather this morning, at three, Temple counted out the House, when we were going through the orders of the day, after the debate and third division!!! We keep up our numbers tolerably well, the

opposition astonishingly ; but all parties are nearly tired of this useless but harassing warfare.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[363.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 4th March, 1808.

I have received your letter of the 29th February. I think that it would be desirable to station a detachment from the garrison of Ross in the disturbed parish, as proposed by Brigade-Major Beever ; for it is evident that the people will not give information, or the magistrates do their duty, till that measure is adopted ; and indeed I can't say that, considering the state of the country, I conceive either of those parties to be very much in the wrong.

The Bills which you mention have been sent to Ireland for the consideration of the Crown lawyers since I wrote to you ; and I now enclose one from Lord Clancarty, which I beg may be considered with a view to its necessity as well as to the propriety of its enactments.

I think it would be very desirable to get rid of ———, but we must do it with caution, lest we should deter other informers from coming forward.

I enclose two letters which I have received from ———, *alias* ———. It is strongly believed here that ——— is ——— who wrote to Lord Castlereagh ; and I still suspect that he is in London. Observe that the dates of the letters and the postmarks don't agree, notwithstanding that he is so impatient to receive an answer. I suppose that he sends his letters from London to somebody in Dublin, ready written and dated ; which person puts them in the post-office ; and ——— is mistaken in his calculation respecting the length of time they are on their road to Ireland. I recommend that you should write him a note, to be delivered as he desires at my office in Dublin, and desire to see him. In an interview you will discover what he has been about, and what he wishes to do.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Our parliamentary campaign is most severe. We have several divisions every night.

I enclose two letters from Lord Kingston. I shall be much obliged to you if you will let me know the nature and duties of the office to which his Lordship has referred in his second letter; what is its value; what person in the office would have a claim to it if it should be vacated; and whether that person got any promotion or any addition of salary by the late arrangements; and what are his claims and merits?

[364.]

To Vice-Admiral Bowen.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 6th March, 1808.

I have to apologise for having omitted to return immediate answers to your letters of the 23rd and 26th of February. I am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken with the harbour of Howth, from which, and from Mr. Rogers's labours, I have no doubt that the public will eventually derive the greatest advantage; and after we shall have once secured that object, with a view to which the Act of Parliament was passed under which the commission was appointed and we are proceeding, viz. to make a harbour for the packets, I shall be happy to lend my aid towards accomplishing any further objects in that quarter which may appear to be practicable, and which may have in view the defence and security of Ireland, and the convenience and safety of the navigation of St. George's Channel.

At present, however, I am apprehensive that Mr. Rogers's plans, as they are very extensive, and the execution of them would cost much money, and at all events would draw the public attention from that which is in every view most important, viz. a secure and easy and quick communication with Great Britain, must be laid aside, and must be taken up at a period when it will be more convenient to carry them into execution.

I apprised Mr. Rogers of these my sentiments in an interview which I had with him before I left Ireland; and although I shall be happy to see him, and converse with him here upon his plans, I think he would do well to defer his journey for the present.

I will not forget the signal stations. But at present the

business of Parliament engrosses so much of the attention of all public men, that it is impossible to draw it to any other.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[365.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 7th March, 1808.

I have received your letter of the 2nd instant. I should like to know whether it is necessary that the collector of Cork should have a house, which is to cost about 5000*l*. I think we might save that expense.

Mr. Alcock is quite unreasonable about the patronage of Waterford. It would be best to refer him to me upon that subject if he should say any more about it.

In respect to Baron Smith's opinion, I am afraid that I have mistaken the case, or that I have not expressed myself correctly upon it. I did not understand that anything had passed upon the subject excepting in private communications, which would afford no ground on which the Lord-Lieutenant could act. What I suggested therefore was, that Baron Smith should be called upon to recommend some specific proceeding which the Lord-Lieutenant should adopt. If you should have officially, or in any authentic form, before you the fact that eleven of the judges differ in opinion with Baron Smith, I would recommend that the Lord-Lieutenant should act according to the opinion of the eleven judges; but I rather understand that you have this only from private communication. I believe the man's life must be saved, although the case of forgery is very strong; and I acknowledge that I have never thought there was much in the plea brought forward for pardoning persons of this description, that their execution had been deferred. That is a plea which is referable only to the feelings of the individual, which ought never to be taken into consideration in any case of public punishment and execution. However, I am not desirous to rely upon my own opinion in a case of this kind, and recommend that you should act as soon as you will have before you authentic grounds on which a proceeding can be founded.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[366.]

To Major Norcott.

DEAR NORCOTT,

Harley Street, 9th March, 1808.

I have received your letter of yesterday's date, and I am sorry that it is not in my power to comply with the request contained in that letter. I should be happy, if it were in my power, to aid your views; but the fact is, that there are many officers in the army who have strong claims upon me for all I can do to serve them, and to whose claims I must attend before I can with justice interfere in behalf of any one else.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[367.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 9th March, 1808.

I have received your letter of the 4th of March. It may, perhaps, be possible to prevail upon the soldier of the Mayo militia to swear examinations against the man who attempted to administer an illegal oath to him, and to prosecute him at the assizes. This might have a good effect.

I recommend that the Lord Lieutenant should adhere to the rule laid down for the regulation of the amount of pensions upon retirement in reference to the gauger of six years' standing in the service, to whom the Commissioners have proposed to give a pension.

I strongly recommend that — should not be admitted as a King's evidence in any case, excepting in one in which there will be full evidence to support and corroborate what he will depose, and in one of greater atrocity and respecting which it is more necessary to make an example than that for which he is himself in confinement.

Before I left Ireland I spoke to the Lord Lieutenant respecting the appointment of Sir George Hill and of Duigenan (by desire of Lord Hawkesbury) to the Privy Council, to which he consented. I shall be obliged to you if you will urge that the letters praying for the King's letters for those appointments might be sent over.

• Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[368.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 13th March, 1808.

I send you some memorandums of applications which have been made to me since I came to London, which ought to have gone to you at an earlier period ; but the fact is that Parliament takes up from twelve to fourteen hours out of every twenty-four, and there is hardly time to look over papers which must be considered and referred to, excepting on Sunday. There is no occasion for any answer to any of these applications, I believe ; it is only necessary to have them entered in your application-book.

You see that Mr. Giffard is made a person of great importance ; but everybody, even in opposition, with whom I have conversed is satisfied with your conduct in appointing him to office. Lord Hardwicke bringing forward the question in the House of Lords is to be attributed to the indiscretion of Croker and others who attacked him. If the defence had been left where I put it, there would have been an end of the question.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[369.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 13th March, 1808.

I enclose the analysis of the Police Bill. Instead of three I intend to have six divisions in Dublin ; and that the Lord Lieutenant should appoint half and the Corporation the other half of the magistrates.

I see that Lord Hardwicke intends to bring before the House of Lords on Monday the case of Mr. Giffard's appointment to the office of Accountant to the Board of Customs. Mr. Giffard was removed from an office worth from 500*l.* to 700*l.* per annum by Lord Hardwicke in the year 1805 for making an intemperate speech and a motion in the Common Council of Dublin against the Catholic Petition, which he did before he knew that the Lord Lieutenant disapproved of the line which he adopted. He had served the public twenty-two years, and no public ground, and indeed no cause, is stated in the letter conveying to the Commissioners of the Customs the order for his removal.

When the Duke of Richmond went to Ireland, Giffard was

strongly recommended to him by the Dukes of York and Cumberland; and I understood from Long that Mr. Pitt had intended to give Giffard an office. When, therefore, the office of Accountant-General to Excise and Customs was divided into two offices, one for Excise, the other for Customs, in consequence of the division of the Boards of Customs and Excise, Mr. Giffard was appointed Accountant to the Customs, an office for which he is fit, and which is worth 600*l.* per annum, nearly the same value with that which he held before, although of superior rank.

In the House of Commons I objected to produce the papers on the plea that no parliamentary ground was laid, and that nothing existed which could show the real cause of Giffard's removal from office; and I justified his appointment by stating his fitness, his long and faithful services, and the opinion which we entertained that if he had been guilty of an indiscretion, three years' deprivation of office was a sufficient punishment.

I avoided, and so did Perceval, to say any thing which could hurt Lord Hardwicke, by stating that we would not inquire whether the dismissal had been justifiable or otherwise; but that, admitting it to have been justifiable, the individual had been amply punished.

Some of our indiscreet friends, however, brought in Lord Hardwicke's name and conduct in the transaction; and then the debate turned upon him, and upon the propriety of avoiding to appoint any man to office in Ireland whose opinions were inimical to the Roman Catholics.

As I may not find you at home between this and Monday, I have written you this long detail.

Ever, my dear Lord,

Yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Right Hon. Spencer Perceval to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR,

Downing-street, 15th March, 1808.

I send you back your two Bills. In returning that respecting the County Police I could not abstain from endorsing upon it my impressions upon its policy. As soon as they are introduced, I should recommend their being printed, and that you should send copies of them to our Attorney and Solicitor-General and to the Lord Chancellor, stating the period which you mean should elapse before you would propose to have them committed,

and that you should be glad to receive any suggestions which might occur to them, in time to take advantage of them in the committee.

In what state of preparation is the Residence Bill for Ireland? I think it ought not to be delayed; but I should be glad to have a day or two's notice of your intention to bring it in; and indeed should wish to have half an hour's conversation with you, before you or whoever is to bring it in should move for leave for that purpose, because I think at the same time we should be prepared to state what we mean to do in this session towards giving increased assistance to the Board of First Fruits for building glebe-houses and churches where they are wanted. I shall likewise be disposed at that time to state my intention of bringing in a bill for improving the condition of the resident curates, both in England and Ireland, and therefore should want the notice which I mentioned before. You may answer this in the House this evening.

Yours very truly,

SPENCER PERCEVAL.

To James Trail, Esq.

[370.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 13th March, 1808.

I received this day your letter of the 7th. I have no objection to Lord Annesley's proposal in respect to Clements, provided that what he gets is not called *superannuation*, but a pension upon the Incidents of the Excise, on the ground of what has passed before the Commissioners of Inquiry. I am convinced that we are right in our decision respecting the circuits of Commissioners; but, whether right or wrong, the best mode of settling what we shall do in future is to persevere in trying the experiment with one Excise district, and, if it answer, extend the same system to others.

If you should think the guards of yeomanry at Ballygarret are sufficient, I have no desire to send other troops into that district; but if any further outrage should be committed, the troops ought to march without loss of time.

I wish that you would tell Lord Annesley that I have under consideration a plan for regulating the promotion of the Excise, and I wait to conclude it only till I can read over papers which Mr. Jackson has promised to send me. It would be desirable that the promotions should be delayed till the general plan shall have been decided upon; but if Lord Annesley should think otherwise, and, above all, if the persons to be promoted have served during the time specified in our sketch of an arrangement, and if they have passed an examination and are

duly qualified, I have no objection to the promotions being now made.

I begged Lady Harrington to send the enclosed bill, and another due to the same shop, to Messrs. Armit, to be paid; but if Mr. Taylor has money of mine in his hands, I shall be obliged to him if he will pay this bill and the other.

I rather differ in opinion with you about the fees of the messengers of the Custom House. These I understand to have been regulated fees upon the commissions of the officers of the revenue, which could not be increased by any act of the messengers, the total amount of which must have depended upon the number of commissions issued during the year, and must have been known, or easily to be known, by the Commissioners of the Revenue. The other fees, which have been abolished or which will be abolished, have depended, or will depend, upon other circumstances. Their amount was not known, but depended upon the officers themselves, who, it is nearly certain, have, since the inquiry in 1805, increased the number of fees and the amount of those demanded to a great extent. It is reasonable, therefore, in fixing a compensation for the fees of the latter, to take the report of the Commissioners of Inquiry for the standard; but I rather believe that it will be just to consider the average for the last three years as the standard for the compensation to be given to the former.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[371.]

To Lord Manners.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 13th March, 1808.

I enclose a letter, which I have received from Mr. Croker, relative to the supersession of Mr. ——— in the commission of the peace for the county of Down. I told Mr. Croker that I could do no more than state to your Lordship the case which he should put into my hands, of which, of course, you would form your own judgment; and I now do so with this single observation, that, supposing it to be the rule that a man convicted of bribery at an election ought not to be in the commission of the peace, circumstances appear in the enclosed case which would

seem to justify an exception in his favour, if those circumstances should really exist as they are represented.

I have inquired from Lord Castlereagh respecting Mr. ——— of ———. He says that general suspicion certainly attached to him during the rebellion on account of his name, his connection with many rebellious characters, particularly his brother, and his religion; but he does not think that these suspicions were ever justified by facts.

We have had a most severe parliamentary campaign. In the last week no less than five late nights, and there will be as many in this. The House sat till six on Friday morning and till seven on Saturday. It is said that the country is much disgusted with this description of contest in Parliament; but I acknowledge that I don't believe that people care much in what manner the government is opposed, provided that there be an opposition. However, the evil is curing itself in another manner. The editors of newspapers lose so much by filling their newspapers with debates on the same subjects every day, that lately they have done little more than publish sketches of the long speeches which have been delivered; and as it is certain that there would be no debating if no persons were to be admitted to the gallery, it is to be hoped that the omitting to publish speeches for some time will have the effect of shortening them, or, at all events, of rendering the debates in Parliament less frequent.

Pray present my best compliments to Lady Manners, and

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Lord Norbury to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,

12th March, 1808.

I observe that some perverted friends of mine at Westminster are working at Tithes and Emancipation, the common trade of every vulgar orator of stupid malignity for the last half century that wished to attract ignorance and beggary to his standard after it had been deserted by the learned, the loyal, the opulent, and the virtuous, against whom he vows in vengeance *Acheronta movebo*.

In our county meetings here, which were manifestly convened at the instance of the partisans of opposition, the leading characters were too well known to demand respect or attention when they goaded the peasantry with reminding them or assuring them that they laboured under miseries and poverty which the orators themselves were most notoriously neglectful

of alleviating within the spheres where their own immediate exertions and expenditure should have employed and comforted the cottagers whom they feed with nothing but hopes of revolution.

It is curious to remark that the estates, mansions, and tenantry of the men I allude to are the most remarkable for suffering under these calamities, and we need not go farther than the ruins of Rathleague to verify my assertion; and when my friend and your brother (Pole) shall see his acquaintance the priest of Maryborough, he may gain some instructions and information as to the politics with which his colleague is so eminently informed beyond any of his ancestors.

We humble men of Ireland, who have been endeavouring to tell the farmer how he might have *plus dapis* and *minus rixa*, and to provide food, raiment, and comfort for our poor, do not find that they are edified or improved by their political advocates at Westminster, who are taking credit for the sentiment of the ploughman while their agents are persecuting them for their rent.

Be assured that the better classes of gentry and farmers have no high opinion of such patriots.

I have only to observe that the great wiseacres who have given themselves credit for their political sagacity have proved themselves the active recruiting officers of Buonaparte and the Irish Directory; but I am happy to tell you that our Solicitor-General and Serjeant Moore have, by some late salutary exertions, caused a very great desertion from their forces in Tipperary.

I have been in the gout, but am better, and hope to be at the assizes of Trim on the 4th of April.

Your little horse is well broke in, and well taken care of at the barracks.

Yours,

NORRURY.

[372.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 14th March, 1808.

I enclose a letter and its printed enclosure, which I have received this morning from Mr. Trail; and an extract from a French letter which Mr. Flint gave me yesterday. This intelligence coming at the same moment from two opposite quarters may deserve attention.

You will observe in my memorandum on the defence of Ireland that that which we want principally at the present moment is field-ordnance and artillery. If there should be any further reason to believe these reports, it would be proper that I should go over to Ireland at an early period.

I likewise enclose a report from Serjeant Moore, from which you will observe that a noted disturber of the peace in Tipperary

and Limerick has been capitally convicted at the Assizes of Clonmel.

Ever, my dear Lord,

Yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Kingston.

[373.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Harley Street, 14th March, 1808.

I enclose a memorandum which has been sent to me from the Commander-in-Chief's office. I hope that in future, when you may recommend persons to me for similar purposes, you will be careful, in the first instance, to ascertain that those persons are deserving your protection.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Hon. W. W. Pole.

[374.]

MY DEAR WILLIAM,

Harley Street, 17th March, 1808.

With respect to the living of Nenagh, it is impossible for me at present to enter into any engagement about it, as it is an invariable rule laid down by the Duke of Richmond not to promise Church preferment before it is actually vacant; and with respect to the offices of Surveyor and Inspector General, it is absolutely necessary that the persons appointed to those situations should be men who have already been employed in the department of Customs or Excise; and the government, in selecting those persons, are guided principally by the recommendation of the Commissioners.

Ever yours affectionately,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Ormond and Ossory.

[375.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 17th March, 1808.

I received your letter of the 16th last night. It is most desirable that you should make an arrangement with govern-

ment at an early period respecting your claims on wines in Ireland, and I shall be happy to converse with your agent, Mr. Williams, upon that subject on any day that he will call at my office in Queen-street, Westminster, between three and five o'clock.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[376.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 18th March, 1808.

I have not been able to write to you for these last four or five days, as we have been so hard worked in Parliament. Pole objects to making — a Governor of the Queen's County, and indeed I know enough of his character to be certain that it would not be a reputable appointment.

I have seen Lord Thomond, and acquainted you with the result of our interview; and I wrote a long letter to the Chancellor yesterday upon his views.

Admiral Bowen mistakes the object we have in view at present at Howth. It is a harbour for the packets, and nothing else; and Rennie, the nautical engineer, is of opinion that it will answer perfectly for that purpose. If we should extend our views, Bowen's plans will be of use.

I wrote to Trail fully last week respecting Adderley's appointment, and I have written him an epistle this day upon other points.

I don't recollect who have applied for the appointment of member of the Linen Board; but your own rule is the best to adhere to, viz., to give it to a person who resides in a county where the linen manufacture exists, but where there is no resident member of the Board. I believe this rule would exclude the Bishop of Kilmore at present.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[377.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 18th March, 1808.

I enclose the result of our inquiries into Maynooth College, with some papers made out in the office here and in Ireland analysing the returns by desire of Mr. Perceval. I have written to Ireland to make further inquiries into the state of the balance which appears to be in the hands of the trustees of the College.

It seems upon the face of these papers that there are buildings at Maynooth which will contain 50 additional scholars, and Mr. Perceval appears inclined to allow the establishment to be increased to the amount of this number. He expressed a wish that these papers might be sent in circulation, in order that the Ministers might decide on the line to be taken; and it is desirable that they should be circulated as soon as possible, as Mr. Foster wishes to present them to the House of Commons before the 25th of March.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[378.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 18th March, 1808.

We are so much pressed by the business in Parliament, that I have been obliged to delay answering some of your late letters till this day. Government have been quite right in the decision respecting Mr. Power's case, as detailed in your letter of the 11th instant; it would not have answered to interfere in the prosecution of that gentleman.

I conceive that Mr. Alexander's son is unnecessarily scrupulous in refusing to take an oath that he holds no office under His Majesty, being promoted to be a lieutenant, which oath he took when he was a cornet; and that the Commissioners of Paving have taken upon themselves an unnecessary power, which the law has not given them, by requiring that persons who held office in the late Paving establishment, and who are now pensioned, should swear that they hold no office. The number of persons in office in Ireland is not so very large that it would not be possible to discover if any of the persons were appointed to office; and a very easy mode of discovering this fact in all instances

would be for the Commissioners to communicate to government a list of the persons having pensions under the Act, and to inform the government that they should continue to pay the pensions until the government should apprise them that those persons were appointed to office. In this mode the views of Parliament would be carried into execution; there would be no occasion for this oath, illegally administered, and the consciences of cornets of dragoons promoted to be lieutenants would not be troubled.

I return the draft of the notice to be sent to the Treasury, which I think will answer perfectly.

I think that the superannuation of the persons mentioned by you may take place, as recommended by the Board of Excise.

I think also that the commissions may be given to the Surveyors promoted under the new arrangement, without waiting for the general regulations on promotion.

I agree with Mr. Elliott in the general principle of his letter of April, 1806, that the yeomanry ought not to be employed in searching for private stills and in the general business of the revenue. In fact, they cannot be so employed in their capacity of soldiers unless called out upon permanent duty, which would require a warrant from the Lord-Lieutenant and other preparatory measures which would defeat the object in view in calling for their services. But I acknowledge that I see no objection to availing ourselves of the offer of the yeomanry serjeants and others in their private characters to aid the revenue officers in preventing and putting down distillation, which is, indeed, a duty imposed upon all the King's subjects. The Commissioners appear to have confounded the distinct characters of soldier and citizen which the yeomanry possess, which occasions the difficulty of this question; there will be none if the distinction be pointed out to them.

I have no objection to your carrying into execution the permit arrangement, excepting that Mr. Marshall must for the present continue to hold his office of Inspector of Imports and Exports, as I believe Mr. Foster has some beneficial arrangement to propose on that head.

In answer to your letter of the 9th, I have to observe that I have no great confidence in ——. However, I am certain that the disaffected in Ireland have no want of means of communication with the government of France, and that there can be no

objection to allowing him to carry on that communication, supposing him to be dishonest to us. If he be true to us, the measure must be attended by the greatest possible advantage. I think, therefore, that you will do well to send him over here as soon as possible.

It would be very desirable to have a person to send over to Holland and France just at the present moment, and I know nobody that would answer our purpose so well as ———, the Scotch priest. I wish, therefore, that you would desire him to come over to me.

We propose to provide for the restoration of the sums received on account of wool licences.

Send me back the Post Office Bill.

I don't like to separate the regular or militia troops in the houses of individuals, as proposed by Major Beevor. I should prefer to move a detachment of troops, or to station some yeomanry in the disturbed district for a certain time, which would be more likely to preserve the general tranquillity, and would expose no man to the effects of the revenge of the disaffected when the troops should be necessarily withdrawn.

I return Baron Smith's papers, and, very much against my inclination, I request you to recommend the Lord-Lieutenant to give Collins a pardon on condition of transportation for life. It is unnecessary, and indeed I have not now time, to enter into a discussion on the question; but I am almost certain that the proper thing to do would be to execute Collins, and the next would be to give him a free pardon.

There are still some points unanswered in letters written by you before the 9th instant; but they are under the consideration of the Secretary of State, who is employed upon other subjects, and I must, therefore, still delay to answer them.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Thomas Strongton, Esq.

[379.]

SIR,

London, 18th March, 1808.

I am much obliged to you for your letter of the 12th instant. Mr. Fitzgerald had presented the petition from the county of Kerry the day before I received that letter, and at a time when

I was not present in the House ; I, however, shall have another opportunity, of which I will avail myself, to inform the House of the nature of that petition.

I will attend to Mr. Fitzgerald's propositions respecting the powers of grand juries.

I am, Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[380.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlechales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 19th March, 1808.

Mr. Foster has referred to my consideration the enclosed letter from your office, relative to the mode of discharging the demands upon government of different persons in the province of Munster from whom ground has been taken under the Defence Act. Mr. Foster says, what is very true, that the Board of Treasury are not a Board of Reference from the War Office ; that it will rest with the Lord-Lieutenant to give his orders respecting the mode in which these demands shall be discharged, and the Treasury must obey them. I therefore suggest to you the propriety of recommending to the Lord-Lieutenant that he should give directions respecting the manner of discharging these demands, according to one of the modes proposed by Mr. Prendergast.

What I should recommend to your consideration is, that as soon as you will receive the certificate of the general officers, you should issue one or more warrants to the Treasury directing the payment of the demand, which will have been certified, to Mr. Prendergast, or any other person to whom you may think fit to intrust the performance of this service, classing the demands in the different warrants according to their counties, or any other local arrangement which you may prefer. Mr. Prendergast, or whoever you will employ, will then receive the money at the Treasury, and will go down and pay the money as soon as may be practicable.

I have to observe upon this subject, that as the certificates of the general officers do not appear to have come in yet, I don't believe there will be much delay in intrusting this business to Mr. Prendergast on the 1st of May, after he will have finished his law circuit.

In respect to your barrack regulations, I perfectly recollect all that has passed upon them, and the share which I have had in the measures. You will also recollect, that even when I conversed with Lord Harrington respecting the delivery of the utensils in kind (which is all that has been done, and that was determined upon before I was in office), I stated my conviction that in many places where the troops were in temporary barracks, the payment of money in lieu of utensils was a more convenient arrangement. I must defer to answer other points on which you have written to me to a moment when I shall have more leisure, which I hope will be to-morrow.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Thomas Burgh, Esq.

[381.]

MY DEAR TOM BURGHE,

London, 19th March, 1808.

I have received both your letters regarding the maps of Ireland. I have desired Colonel Murray to talk to you on the subject of them; and he will see them all, and I will buy for the public, at the price stated, such of them as he may think it desirable that the public should have, and the map of Cork at all events.

I have found your Ordnance papers, but I have not yet been able to attend to them.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Manners.

[382.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 19th March, 1808.

I enclose a letter which I have received from Mr. Leslie. I have only to say upon the subject of it, that Mr. Leslie is a firm supporter and a constant attendant in Parliament; and I hope that, if what he proposes is not irregular, and the gentleman he recommends is not undeserving of your Lordship's favour, and you are not desirous of conferring the appointment which he solicits on somebody else, you will be inclined to attend to his wishes.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[383.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 19th March, 1808.

Upon analysing the papers received from the College of Maynooth, and comparing the receipts stated in them with the disbursements as stated in the Reports of the Commissioners of Imprest Accounts, it appears that there is a balance in the hands of the trustees of the College amounting to upwards of 5000*l*. The analysis which we have made of the accounts may not be, although I believe it is, a fair one; and it is desirable to be able to prove the fact, that a balance exists, in a more authentic manner. I shall, therefore, be much obliged to you if you will address another letter, without loss of time, to the trustees of the College, requesting them to send an account of their receipts in each year since their establishment under the distinct heads of grants from the public, entrance-money, gratuities, donations, legacies, &c., and of the totals of the disbursements in each year allowed by the Commissioners of Imprest Accounts, and the balance now remaining in the hands of the trustees.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[384.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 19th March, 1808.

I enclose a small pamphlet, and a plan of a school for Londonderry, which I have received from the Bishop of Derry. His Lordship's object in giving me these papers is, that I may interest the government in the success of his endeavours to establish a great school at Londonderry, and particularly that I should prevail upon the Lord-Lieutenant to give up the appointment of the schoolmaster, which he now holds, to the Bishop, an arrangement which he states is likely to be materially beneficial to the school, as it will draw from the citizens of Londonderry larger contributions for its support. I am rather disposed to favour the Bishop's views: the patronage of the school is no great object to the Lord-Lieutenant, and as the Bishop contributes to its establishment and maintenance so liberally, he is likely to be more interested than any other person in the selection of a proper schoolmaster; and it is not very pro-

bable that his successors in the see of Derry would abuse this concession from the Lord-Lieutenant. If it be true, as stated by the Bishop, that the concession will tend to increase the subscriptions, and to the better establishment of the school, it certainly ought to be made; for it is most desirable to establish in the best manner, in the north of Ireland, a school for the education of persons in the principles of the church and constitution of England, as a counterpoise to the democratical establishment proposed at Belfast, on which I sent you papers some days ago. There is no man so capable as the Bishop of Derry of fixing an establishment of this description on the best principles; and I am strongly inclined to favour his views, so far as to give the Bishop the power of recommending to the Lord-Lieutenant the person to be appointed schoolmaster, with which he would be perfectly satisfied.

I enclose another paper received this day respecting the man who died in the Marshalsea.

I likewise enclose some papers on Sir George Shee's case, which I beg you to consider. You will find the substance of the whole of them in a letter from me to Lord Castlereagh, of which I enclose the copy, and in his answer. Long, to whom I spoke last night upon the subject, agrees with me and Lord Castlereagh in principle respecting Sir George's claim, although not in the amount of it.

I have loaded you with papers which require your decision; and as the shortest mode of settling and deciding all the points to which they relate, I wish that you would give me an hour either to-morrow or Monday.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*To Lieutenant-Colonel George Murray.**

[385.]

MY DEAR MURRAY,

London, 19th March, 1808.

I received your letter and its enclosure this morning, for which I am very much obliged to you. I agree entirely in your opinions about Sweden. We must not pass the Gulf of Finland with our army; and we must secure our right flank by the pos-

* Afterwards the Right Honourable Sir George Murray, G.C.B., G.C.H.

session of Norway, and by a naval blockade of the Catgat, &c. &c. &c.

Tom Burgh has offered me, for the Government, some maps, particularly a remarkably good one of Cork, which he values at 200*l.*, and others of other counties at 100*l.* each. I intended to buy them for the Quartermaster-General's department; and I wish you and General Clinton to look at them and see, and let me know whether they are worth buying.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[386.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 19th March, 1808.

I have just received your letter of the 14th. I am still of the same opinion about ——. I don't think it signifies much whether he goes abroad or not. I am almost certain that he deceives us, or rather thinks he does; but as the disaffected do not want means of communication with France, and they are not likely to derive any very particular advantage from using ——— as their channel, I see no reason why we should endeavour to prevent them from using him. Indeed as I intend to send ——— to Paris, it might not be inconvenient to know the person through whom the disaffected communicate with the French government, in order that ——— might watch him. Could you not, by watching — or ———, find out whether ——— really communicates with them?

The Bishop of Limerick behaves very ill if he now objects to the exchange between Mr. Tisdall and Mr. Dunlavin; but if he do object, we cannot help it; the exchange cannot take place. If I have the Bishop's letter here, it shall be sent to you.

I don't think it signifies much that the Solicitor-General has prosecuted Mr. Power; indeed in some views of the question I think it fortunate that he has done so. I return his letter. Pray desire Bagwell, or some of the gentlemen of the county of Tipperary, to give a hint to the sheriff that it is very desirable that these *whippings* should be in earnest. If they are not severe, they will be made a joke throughout the country. I

also think it very desirable that the people for transportation should be removed without loss of time.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[387.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 21st March, 1808, 2 P.M.

I did not receive your express of the 17th till this morning, and I am concerned to find that a difficulty of such importance as are the events in the Londonderry regiment has occurred. It appears to me, however, that you have adopted the most judicious measures in order to get the better of it entirely; and I have only to suggest in addition to those already adopted, that directions should be given to the general officers and others in command to bring to a court-martial and punish without reference or loss of time all those soldiers who should behave in a manner similar to those in the Londonderry regiment. I also recommend that, if you should find that this spirit spreads, or if the other soldiers of the militia should manifest a disposition not to resist those who make this claim, you should call out the yeomanry, particularly in the northern counties.

I have not seen any of the Ministers, excepting Lord Hawkesbury, upon this subject, but he has called a cabinet for to-morrow, after which I will send you an express. But I would not allow that which I understand is now going from the Home Office to be despatched without writing these few lines.

If I should find that this spirit continues among the militia soldiers, or if the Ministers should wish it, or if your next letter should express a wish upon it, I shall be prepared to set out for Ireland forthwith.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Duke of Richmond to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR ARTHUR,

Dublin Castle, 17th March, 1808.

I send you copies of letters relative to the Londonderry militia. You will perceive that the men who claim their discharges do not do it in a riotous way, but in that steady manner which makes me fear there is much system in it. The Brigadier-General (Ker) seems to take it cool, for he does not leave his own quarters. I don't know him, but I am sure no man

is fit to have so serious a command as that may turn out to be who does not instantly go to the scene; I have, therefore, desired Lord Harrington to send Major-General Meyrick to take the command in the north for the present. I have directed him also to order a general court-martial of the higher officers, for it should be as respectable as possible. I have also required all the colonels of militia to join without loss of time, as I conceive they have much influence with their regiments.

In all probability other regiments will follow the example, and some may be riotous. Meyrick has therefore routes with him to bring any regular assistance he may find necessary to any part of the north. Routes for the same purpose will be sent to other parts of the kingdom. The opinions of the Crown lawyers are so very strong, that I have no hesitation in saying we have a perfect right to the services of these people. I recollect you had some doubt as to the policy. Pray consult Lord Hawkesbury on this subject. I am of opinion we should not give way; but should His Majesty's Ministers think otherwise, the King's pleasure should be stated for granting discharges, though the law does not give them a claim. Before the court-martial can be over, I shall, I hope, have your answer. The commanding officer of the Derry seems to have acted with great propriety. I am not without hopes that the alertness and the determination shown by us on this occasion may put a stop to this unpleasant business; but it is possible it may turn out very serious. I have this moment got your letter of the 13th and memorandums.

Yours very faithfully,

RICHMOND.

Meyrick has orders to examine the attestations, as it is possible they may be incorrect, in which case the men may perhaps be entitled to their discharges.

The Duke of Richmond to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR ARTHUR,

19th March, 1808, 4 o'clock, A.M.

The militia business seems to be over. Meyrick has found all quiet. I am happy to say that an immediate attention from government has done the thing. I send an official letter to Lord Hawkesbury. I don't like to alarm at any time, but I thought it looked serious when I sent yesterday, and I am certain it would have been so had we not been ready.

Yours sincerely,

RICHMOND.

[388.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 22nd March, 1808.

I had a meeting with Lord Hawkesbury, Lord Castlereagh, and Sir George Hill, this day, respecting the mutiny in the Derry militia; and the former desired me to tell you that the King's Ministers wished to enforce the right of the public to

the services of the militia who had taken the attestation specified in the Act of Parliament according to its legal meaning as construed by the Attorney and Solicitor-General; but he recommends that there should be a very strict examination of all the attestations of the men who claim their discharges, and that if any of them should be found informal, they should be submitted to the opinion of the law officers, and that the informality, if found to exist and to vitiate the attestation, should be construed strictly for the benefit of the soldier. It is known that there are some informal attestations in the Derry militia, but it is believed that those of the men who now claim their discharges are strictly regular.

Lord Hawkesbury recommends that the officers of the militia should explain to their men who will claim their discharges, the opinions last given by the Attorney and Solicitor-General; and that it should be particularly explained to them that they are sworn by the same attestation as the English militia, who have never made, or thought they had a right to make, any claim for their discharges as long as the militia remained embodied.

Lord Hawkesbury will write to you officially upon this subject to-morrow.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Clarina.

[389.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 23rd March, 1808.

Since I last wrote to you I have had some communication with head-quarters relative to your being employed on service, and I have used my best endeavours to forward your wishes in that respect. After all which has passed on the subject, it is evident to me that the only opening which presents itself to you at present is that of offering to take a tour of duty in the Leeward Islands, which proposal, I think, might probably be accepted. I am ready to acknowledge that your situation is a very distressing one, and as you seem so anxious to be employed, I cannot omit to suggest to you the mode by which I think your object may be accomplished. As a matter of opinion and personal feeling I shall venture to add, that, on general prin-

ciples of military duty, it has always been my determination to go wherever my services might be required; the same determination, I know, has uniformly influenced the Duke of Richmond's mind; and I am persuaded that, if either he or I were placed in a situation similar to yours, however unpleasant the circumstances might be, we should still act upon that resolution. It is, however, a point on which you must decide for yourself, and you will, no doubt, give it due attention before you do decide.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[390.]

To Dr. Duigenan.

SIR,

London, 23rd March, 1808.

I am much concerned that the knowledge which I have, as an officer of the army, of the service, will prevent my interference in the request contained in the enclosed letter. It is quite impossible it should be granted, and I should only expose myself to the refusal of an unreasonable request if I were to interfere in it.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[391.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 23rd March, 1808.

I wish that some further measures were taken to urge the governors and deputy-governors of counties to make an exertion to raise their men. I would advise the following measure: First, inform them that the attention of the judges of assize will be called to the clause of the 47th George III., laying on the fines for men not complete; but that the Lord-Lieutenant, ever disposed to relieve the country as far as may be in his power from any burthen to which it may be exposed, more particularly when he sees that the gentlemen of the country exert themselves, is inclined to avail himself of the power given to him by the Act to dispose of the fines for the benefit of the counties respectively, if within one (query two?) month from the date of

your letter they shall have completed their respective quotas of men.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Thomas Rogers, Esq.

[392.]

SIR,

London, 24th March, 1808.

In answer to your letter of yesterday's date, I have to observe to you that, although I have been willing to look at your plans, and to hear and consider your suggestions with respect to the harbour at Howth, I never have directly or indirectly held out any expectation that those plans and suggestions would be carried into execution on the part of the public: on the contrary, I have stated to you most distinctly that the only object at present, on the part of the public, was to establish a harbour for the packets in pursuance of the Act of Parliament passed exclusively for that purpose; and that however desirable it might hereafter be to extend and improve the harbour at Howth, that must be matter for future consideration, and certainly could not be attempted until after the completion of the works upon their present more limited scale. I am extremely sorry that there should have been any misunderstanding upon this subject; and particularly so that, notwithstanding the care I took to explain myself to you when I was in Dublin, the public attention should have been drawn in a very particular manner to the consideration of your plans, which cannot be carried into execution at present consistently with the law. Under these circumstances you cannot be surprised that I should be under the necessity at present of expressing my disapprobation of those plans, which, recommended as they are by such respectable authority, would, if the law permitted their execution, have all the support which I could give them.

I am, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

['393.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 24th March, 1808.

I have settled our plans of proceeding with the seceders from the Synod of Ulster, which I enclose, together with the draft of a despatch to be written by the Lord-Lieutenant to Lord Hawkesbury as the groundwork of the whole proceeding. Pray have this letter and the accompanying papers sent over as soon as possible.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[394.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 24th March, 1808.

I think that it would be desirable to encourage the soldier of the Mayo regiment to persevere in his endeavours to discover the objects of ———, and particularly where the arms are concealed. I do not think there is anything more in the information hitherto received than that there is a very bad spirit in the neighbourhood of Banagher; and Captain Cobb's plan for seizing the arms, transmitted in your letter of the 16th, appears to me to be rank nonsense. The consequence of an attempt to carry it into execution would be, that we should lose the arms now in the islands on the Shannon.

As we have determined to take the Report of the Commissioners in 1804 as the scale for the compensation for fees, I believe that it is as well to adhere to the same scale for the fees on commissions as well as all others of the same nature.

Mr. Jocelyn mentioned Mr. Waller's claim for further consideration to me; but instead of convincing me that it was a just one, I thought that I had convinced him that I could not consider it with justice to others. The question is, whether Mr. Waller has for his office of Examiner of Information Books the amount which he returned to the Commissioners of Inquiry as that of his emolument from that office. If he has, he can have no more; if he has not, his income ought to be augmented to that amount. I understand his salary of 400*l.* a-year as first clerk is to be increased to 600*l.* in addition to this compensation.

I have no objection to allow the clerical messenger to be

superannuated if he has served the specified number of years. If he has not served that number, he must either attend as messenger or resign his office, or he may employ a deputy, with whom the Board will be satisfied, in consideration of this particular case. Besides this, I beg you to take the Lord-Lieutenant's orders about allowing to each of the Boards of Revenue two messengers, including the clergyman as one.

I don't know what to do about the want of magistrates in the country. The Ministers have great objections to the adoption of our County Police Bill, and have recommended rather that we should pay the extra magistrates whom we may think it necessary to employ as we pay our magistrates in Dublin, than that we should make such an innovation in the system of government in the country. It would be best, therefore, for the present at Clogheen to appoint a field officer to be the magistrate. I have great objections, founded possibly upon professional feelings, to throwing these duties upon the officers and soldiers of the army: they are entirely unaccustomed and unacquainted with them; and yet, if they make a mistake, we come upon them with a most heavy hand. When they are charged with these duties, government should be responsible, and pay for their faults at all events. I have already given you an answer to Alderman Alexander's request.

I brought on the Police Bill last night, having, in concurrence with the Ministers, altered its provisions so far as to make six divisions instead of three in the metropolis, and adopted the plan for the appointments which I at first proposed. I wish you would inquire from the Attorney-General and Chief Justice whether they think it desirable to adhere to the alteration they made in the bill, viz., that crimes committed within the Circular Road only (and not within the whole police district) should be tried in the county of the city of Dublin. I settled that crimes committed in any part of the district should be tried in the county of the city, because I understood that it was next to impossible to get a jury of the county to convict a man; and I think it would be desirable to adhere to the measure as I fixed it, if it can be so arranged. I imagine that the Attorney-General and Chief Justice think that my plan will render the sessions at Kilmainham entirely nugatory; but supposing we were to settle that all persons committed by a police magistrate for a crime committed within the district should be

tried in the county of the city, and the others in the county? Consult the Attorney and Solicitor General and Chief Justice upon this point.

Alderman Beresford and Mr. Shaw opposed my bill; and, strange to tell, I carried it through the stage through which it has gone by the support given to it by Sir John Newport. They opposed it on the ground of the infringement of the charter by making strangers magistrates in the corporation, and I imagine that they will work up an opposition to it on that ground in the city of Dublin.

I know that the Lord-Lieutenant will adhere to his good practice of making no engagements for the disposal of any of the offices in the new arrangement of the police; and I think that if we manage our matters well, we shall be able not only to carry the Bill through without opposition from the corporation, but by disposing of the offices in the gift of government to the fittest and ablest men, to influence the corporation to dispose of those in their gift likewise to the persons most capable of performing the duties attached to them.

Pray let me know what you think the expense of the whole measure will be; and send me the map of Dublin and other police papers which I gave you, and which you have in your possession.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I wish that you would let me know as soon as possible under what authority Trevor and the others act as magistrates in Dublin, and the same information respecting the conservators of the peace.

I find that some of the papers of to-day say that I stated to the House of Commons last night that the police magistrates of the city of Dublin had been already consulted on the subject of the proposed new arrangement for the police of that city. I did not say so. I said that it was notorious in Dublin that government had it in contemplation to reform the police establishment, and that those persons had been consulted upon the measure whom it is usual to consult on such occasions, and indeed that the superintending magistrate was certainly well aware of the intention on the part of government, but that he was not informed of the particulars of the plan proposed to be carried into execution.

The Archbishop of Dublin to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

No. 4, Great Cumberland-place,
11th April, 1808.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR WELLESLEY,

I hear that you mean, by an Act of Parliament, to divide Dublin and its vicinity, including an extent of about eight miles, into six districts, to each of which an alderman, a common council man, and a barrister, are to be appointed by government.

This Bill may, possibly, materially affect the rights and privileges of the Archbishop of Dublin, as lord of the manors of St. Sepulchre's, Glandelough, &c. I trust, therefore, that you will put a clause into this new Police Bill saving the rights and privileges of the Archbishop of Dublin as lord of those manors; which include not only the whole of the parishes of St. Kevin's and St. Nicholas Without, with a considerable part of St. Peter's parish in Dublin, but also a large tract of country, containing the villages of Rathmines, Rathfarnham, Tallaght, Miltown, Dundrum, Williamstown, Merrion, &c., all in the neighbourhood of Dublin, and within the district intended to be comprised in this new Police Bill. My several manors are under the government of my Seneschal, Mark Hare, Esq., whom I beg you to do me the honour to recommend to His Grace the Duke of Richmond, to be appointed barrister of that district. Should His Grace wish to make any inquiry as to Mr. Mark Hare's competency to fill the situation of Assistant-Barrister, he begs that question may be referred to the Lord Chief Baron and to Lord Norbury.

I must also assure His Grace the Lord-Lieutenant, and you, that if I had not the most perfect confidence in the competency of Mr. Mark Hare to fill the office of Barrister, I would not presume to solicit this appointment for him.

If you will do me the honour to confer with Mr. Hare (who lives at No. 4, in Suffolk-street, Dublin), he will submit to you such a clause for the due preservation of my rights, and those of my seneschal, as will, I hope, appear to you to be proper to constitute part of your new Act of Parliament; and he will give you every other information relative thereto that you may wish to obtain from him.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir Arthur,

Your very faithful and humble servant,

CHARLES DUBLIN.

To James Trail, Esq.

[395.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 25th March, 1808.

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will inquire and let me know what kind of man Mr. Parker of Cork is, who has been appointed agent for the Danish property at Cork, by the Danish Commissioners, at the recommendation of Colonel Longfield. His appointment, however, has occasioned the resigna-

tion of Messrs. Pollock and Maxwell, who had been before appointed by the Commissioners, and therefore we suspect he is not so good as Longfield represents him to be.

Lord Moira has applied that ———, of Ballydurgan, near Downpatrick, who was a rebel, might be allowed to return to Ireland. I have told him that, if the name were not in the Banishment Acts, or if he had not committed a crime which is an exception in the Amnesty Acts, I did not know that there was any objection to his returning to Ireland; but that if he had been banished, or if he had committed such a crime, nothing that the government could do would save him.

Let me know what ——— has done.

I return the letter from the Commissioners of the Excise, and the answer, with a trifling alteration; and I think it ought to be sent down.

I think that this suspicion of invasion mentioned in yours of the 20th, the state of mind of the militia, and the police question, must oblige me to go over to Ireland at Easter, if I can get away from hence.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[396.]

To Colonel Montgomery.

MY DEAR MONTGOMERY,

London, 25th March, 1808.

Your letter which I received this morning has not given me a great deal of satisfaction; and, indeed, I don't suppose it was written with an intention to convey any. I shall be happy to speak to you on the subject to which it relates whenever you please; but I must tell you that, whether on the ground of a *job* or not, no officer can have his pension upon retirement till he will have served twenty-five years.

I now write to you principally to discharge a commission intrusted to me, which was to ask you whether you have any objection to allow the trial of the petition on the Donegal election to be postponed till the end of April, or the beginning of May, as it is understood that your counsel, as well as the counsel of your adversary, will be on circuit at the time fixed for the committee.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[397.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 25th March, 1808.

I think you are quite right about Lord Conyngham. The settlement of the militia affairs has given the greatest satisfaction here, particularly to the Duke of York, with whom I had a long conversation on the subject this morning, after he had seen Meyrick's last report.

I am glad that you have turned out Pole's friend. I did not know that he had one in the situation you mention; but if he had, it was an additional reason for dismissing him from it, if he behaved ill.

I was induced to doubt whether the proposed pier at Howth would answer for the packets till I had seen Rennie's last opinion upon the subject, which is entirely favourable to the plan now in execution. Mr. Rogers has not behaved quite well upon his own plan. When I saw him in Dublin I told him that I thought his plan was an ingenious one; but that it was upon a larger scale than the Act of Parliament allowed of, as it provided only for a harbour for the packets. He then offered to complete it, and to bring it to me here, and I told him that if he were coming to London on other business I should be happy to see him, and look at his plans; but that I could not recommend him to come over to show me what he proposed to execute, or with a view to forward them, as I was convinced that, till we had executed our first object, or failed in the execution of it, it would be useless to propose to Parliament to go further. He understood me entirely, and left me, as I thought, perfectly satisfied.

He must have represented what passed between him and me to Admiral Bowen quite erroneously; and I find that the extended scheme has been brought forward to the corporation, &c., &c., as if it were patronised by government, whereas no more passed than I have stated, and the Board for the management of Howth Harbour, composed of all the officers of government, had fixed upon, and were actually carrying into execution, another plan. Mr. Rogers's scheme may be a good one, but I know that till we shall have either succeeded or failed in what we are now doing, it is out of the question to endeavour to execute it. If we should succeed; it will not be difficult to show that it is desirable that we should do more; if we should fail,

it will not be difficult to show that it is desirable that we should do something, and that something is practicable. In the mean time the scheme now in progress is within the compass allowed by the Act of Parliament, and may be stated to be the very plan which Parliament had in view when it passed the law.

At Lord Castlereagh's desire I wrote to the Bishop of Cloyne to request him to give the vacant living to Mr. Babington, and I enclose his answer.

I omitted to mention to you that Sydenham desired me to tell you that he was highly flattered by your attention to him, but that he considered himself to be bound to Lord Wellesley, and that he could not offer his services to any body else.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[398.]

To the Rev. William Elliott.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 26th March, 1808.

From the communications which I have had with the Duke of York and the officers about him, I feel a considerable difficulty and delicacy in any interference in the promotion or exchanges of the officers of the army, excepting in the manner I before stated to you. I will take an opportunity of speaking to Colonel Gordon upon the subject, and if I should see no objection, I will go further; but I acknowledge that the repugnance which I have to this step is extreme; and if it were felt by you, I should imagine you would not press me upon it, solely with a view to save your son the expense and trouble of a voyage to Jersey.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[399.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 29th March, 1808.

I have received your letters of the 23rd and 24th. I hope that the soldiers of the Cavan at Athlone will not behave ill. However, you appear to me to have adopted every practicable precaution, and if they should break out, they will soon be

brought up with a tight hand. All that you have done has given great satisfaction here.

I enclose a memorandum which Burton gave me of a man to be appointed barrack-master of Ennis, which office he says is vacant. He has a claim to recommend a person to succeed, and possibly as the office is worth only 60*l.* per annum, you may find it convenient to give it him.

Mr. Foster has applied to have his son, Colonel Foster, appointed a member of the Linen Board ; and says that if you have no objection to appoint him, he will send you the resignation of an existing member. Foster has every claim to this or any other favour he may ask connected with the linen trade ; but what I would recommend to you would be to appoint Colonel Foster to the existing vacancy by Lord Thomond's death, and then to accept the resignation which will be offered to you by another member, who will be induced by Foster to give it in.

It is inconceivable how much these offices at the Linen Board are sought after. Lord Gosford, who applied last year to be placed there, spoke to me in rather unpleasant terms upon the subject some days ago, and urged very strenuously his wishes to be appointed at present. I gave him the usual answer, and explained the principles on which all the appointments which you had made to that Board had been applied to the persons selected. I think, however, that Lord Gosford might be the next to Foster : he resides in a county in which the linen manufacture is increasing ; he says there is nobody in his immediate neighbourhood who belongs to the Board ; and he is a man of very large fortune, and of an influence in Armagh which has considerable effect on the return of the members for the county.

Let me know, as soon as you can, whether I shall send you this resignation promised by Foster.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[400.]

To the Hon. Colonel Blaquière.

MY DEAR BLAQUIERE,

London, 29th March, 1808.

Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to be of any service to you ; but I don't know that I am going upon any service, and if I were to go, I am afraid that I should not be allowed to have more officers attached to me than a brigade-major and an aide-de-camp.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[401.]

To Sir Edward Leslie, Bart.

SIR,

London, 29th March, 1808.

I have perused the papers which you were so kind as to communicate to me respecting the port of Tarbert, and I am strongly impressed with a sense of the benefits to be derived from the adoption of the plan which you propose ; but I cannot take upon myself at present to say that it shall be carried into execution until I shall have had an opportunity of consulting upon it the Commissioners of the Customs in Ireland, which opportunity I hope to have upon my return to Dublin.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[402.]

To the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 30th March, 1808.

I enclose the memorandum which I told you I had prepared respecting the mode to be adopted for building churches in Ireland. I shall be obliged to you if you will send this paper over to my office when you will have perused it, if you do not see any objection to putting the plan proposed in the form of a bill.

It would be very desirable to adopt some mode of enabling the Irish wine merchants to import wine in bottles into Great Britain. They are most anxious for it ; and I fear that the omission to do something on this subject will make us

very unpopular in Ireland ; as these same wine merchants are very much at the head of society in Dublin.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[403.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 31st March, 1808.

I send you more extracts of militia letters. The first contains strong language.

I shall be much obliged to you if you will send me my Recognizance Bill and County Police Bill. I believe that I can alter the latter so as to make it answer some good purposes, and I wish to bring in both in the next week.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[404.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 2nd April, 1808.

I am very sorry that Mr. Adderley declines to accept the office of Inspector-General, for I am convinced that the public service would derive the greatest benefit from the employment of a person in the Excise who had not been educated in the Excise of Ireland, and who had received a good education, and was a man of sound principles. But as Mr. Adderley will not accept the office, I don't know where we shall find another ; and therefore I would suggest to you to advise the Lord-Lieutenant to appoint the surveyor of the first class who should be recommended by the Board.

In answer to your first letter of the 28th March, I have to inform you that ——— declines to go upon the mission on which I had proposed to send him.

I have left the clause in the Police Bill, relative to the jurisdiction of the Recorder's Court, as I found it. I am afraid that I have been too liberal of patronage to the City, and I think there is peculiar force in the objection of the Chief Justice and

Attorney-General to allowing the corporation to appoint the barristers. I have thoughts of modifying it upon the recommitment of the Bill, in this way, viz. : to let the Chancellor and Chief Justices recommend nine barristers to the Corporation, out of whom the Lord Mayor and Aldermen shall choose six, and from them the Common Council three. This would remove all objections. I cannot promise Alexander or anybody more than that he shall have his salary.

I rather believe I have misunderstood the Bishop of Derry ; for I now find that he wishes that the London Companies should have the appointment of the schoolmaster upon his recommendation. I will never consent to this ; the Lord-Lieutenant must appoint at the recommendation of the Bishop ; and I want the Lord-Lieutenant to signify his consent officially to relinquish his patronage so far, in order that I may give the consent of the Crown to the Bill.

In answer to your letter of the 27th, I have to observe that I rather differ with you respecting Mr. Waller's compensation. If Mr. Waller had been allowed to remain in his office of Examiner of Information Books, he would have received his 200*l.* a-year additional salary as first clerk, besides the emoluments as Examiner ; and being deprived of the office of Examiner, I don't think that he ought to be in a worse situation than that in which he would have been if he had remained in the office. Then I think that Mr. Waller has had rather close measure in respect to the office of Secretary of the Board of Excise, and that we ought not to deal hardly with him in this other transaction.

I am obliged to you for the estimate of the expense of the police, which I suppose must be nearly correct ; and I fancy that it does not differ much from that which I have inserted in the Bill. But I have made a rough estimate for 100 horse and 100 foot ; which we may reduce to the number proposed by you ; which we may afterwards increase if we should think it proper or necessary.

I enclose a letter which I have this instant received from Swan, containing information which may be useful in the apprehension of villains in Tipperary ; at least as far as I can make out the enclosures.

I will send you an answer respecting Lord Donoughmore's

Secretary to the Board of Health, as soon as I shall have found out how the business is done here.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[405.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 2nd April, 1808.

I enclose more extracts from militiamen's letters. I likewise enclose the copy of a letter written by one of the King's messengers who had been despatched upon some business from Dublin, and had been attended on his road to the south of Ireland by escorts of militia soldiers; and you will see what he says of the temper of the militia upon this occasion. I must observe, however, that it is possible that the soldiers, knowing this man to be a King's messenger, may have exaggerated the state of the temper in which their corps were.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Castlereagh.

[406.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 3rd April, 1808.

I enclose some papers, which I have received from Ireland, relative to the barracks to be built at Strabane, from which you will observe the great difficulties under which we shall labour from the high price asked for ground in that neighbourhood. I wish that you would speak to Lord Abercorn on the subject, with a view to obtain the ground on rather better terms; otherwise I am afraid that he and government may get into a scrape by persevering in fixing the barrack at Strabane, where the ground is so much dearer than it is at Lifford.

I want you to turn over in your mind the principle of our proceedings in the Committee on Indian affairs. It is very clear that the Company have incurred a very large expense on account of the government; and it is equally clear that the Company cannot go on without aid from the public, either in the way of loan or of payment of the expenses incurred on account of the public. The Committee appear to me to be

disposed to admit the justice of many of the demands of the Company on the public (particularly Wilberforce), and the question which I wish you to consider is, whether it is not desirable to allow the Committee to make up the account in such a manner as that the *debt* to the Company will appear, rather than that it should appear to the public that they are now "to be taxed for the support of India." Dundas agrees in opinion with me upon this subject, and thinks that Perceval will alter his opinion when he will have considered the subject more maturely. I wish that you would turn it over in your mind.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[407.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 3rd April, 1808.

I enclose a paper which the Duke of Kent gave me this morning to be transmitted to you. It appears that Colonel Robinson, the gentleman referred to in that paper, was an officer of artillery in America, and having been brought to a court-martial, he was tried, and the sentence never known; and he lost three years' rank by the delay of the trial, and other circumstances, which the Duke of Kent, with some reason, represents as a great injustice to him. He then left the artillery upon the full pay of his rank; and the Duke of Kent prevailed upon Lord Hardwicke to appoint him the barrack-master of St. Sepulchre's, Dublin, for which he has 10s. a-day. He has never done the duty of this situation, having always had leave of absence; but he now imagines it will be necessary for him to do the duty or resign; and the Duke wishes that Mr. Clements might be appointed, on an understanding that the son will take the office and do the duty as soon as his health will permit. I told the Duke that you had great objections to an arrangement of this description, which you never allowed of, excepting under very extraordinary circumstances. On the ground of the services and the misfortunes alone of Colonel Robinson, he said he wished to press this matter upon your consideration; and that he would be answerable for it that there was no job in the transaction,

I asked the Duke whether Mr. Clements was the man who had been in the Excise, fearing that he might have been so. He said he did not believe he was, but that he would inquire; and that, of course, if there were any objection to Mr. Clements, he would find another person.

Clements, the member for Leitrim, wishes to get rid of the Lieutenant-Colonel of his regiment of militia, who is willing to resign to his son. The son, however, is barrack-master of Sligo, and will not accept the commission unless a person should be appointed to be barrack-master whom he will recommend; and Clements desired me to ask you whether you would allow him to recommend a person to be appointed barrack-master of Sligo. I think this is an arrangement of a nature quite different in principle from that proposed by the Duke of Kent; however, I think it necessary to bring it under your notice, as Clements has desired it.

I enclose a memorandum which I took down the other day of Lord Mountnorris's wishes upon the subject of the promotion of a man.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[408.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 3rd April, 1808.

I enclose a memorandum and accompanying papers on the subject of inland navigation in Ireland, which I beg you to consider and determine upon.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[ENCLOSURE.]

MEMORANDUM.—When the Union was under discussion, Lord Castlereagh proposed to the Parliament of Ireland to grant a sum, not exceeding 500,000*l.*, to be laid out in the improvement of the harbour of Dublin and in the inland navigation of Ireland, under the superintendence of a Board, called the Board of Inland Navigation; and when this measure was objected to on the ground that the sum was not sufficient for the purposes to which it was to be applied, Lord Castlereagh stated that he

was convinced that the Parliament of the United Kingdom would be disposed to add to the grant to at least an equal amount as soon as this sum should be expended. His Lordship's expressions upon this occasion have been frequently repeated, and are considered as an engagement made by government, in consequence of which the Parliament of Ireland refrained in its last session from increasing the grant to be applied to these purposes to the amount of one million sterling. It appears by the letters from the Board of Navigation sent with this memorandum, that although a sum of 200,000*l.* out of the 500,000*l.* still remains in hand, a sum of 400,000*l.* has been disposed of, and not more than a sum of 100,000*l.* remains to be applied.

It is obvious from a perusal of the letters from the Board of Navigation, that the public will derive but little advantage from their services in the superintendence of the issue of this limited sum of money. They must necessarily give up the more extended and beneficial plans of inland navigation, and confine their attention to those the expense of which can be covered by this sum, whatever may be their opinion of their comparative merits or of the benefits to be derived from them.

Setting aside all consideration of the speech made by Lord Castlereagh, and of the weight to be attached to it at the present day as an engagement by the English government to the Irish Parliament, it appears to be very desirable that some mode should be adopted of extending the inland navigation of Ireland. It is quite certain that the capital of the country is not sufficiently large to afford any reasonable hope that it would be employed in this way; and if there were capital in the country, there is but little encouragement to employ it in making canals, for it is a fact well known that however advantageous the canal, called the Royal Canal, may have been to the nation at large, the proprietors of the stock did not for many years receive any dividend, and till very lately they received only one per centum.

If these works are to be extended, it must be by public aid; and the question appears to rest entirely upon the expediency of extending them.

I might be satisfied with referring upon this point to the letters from the Board of Navigation accompanying this paper; but I must say that I consider the extension of these lines of inland navigation to be an object of great political importance to the United Kingdom. One of the greatest existing evils in Ireland

is the want of employment for the overflowing population of the country. There is no resource but the land; every man within reach bids for a farm that becomes vacant; the consequence is that the rent of land is exorbitantly high, infinitely higher than the rent of land of the same fertility and equally well situated in Great Britain, and the wages of labour are much lower, because there is no demand for it. There are but few markets in Ireland, and the labouring poor almost universally subsist upon the produce of a small piece of ground, for which they pay the exorbitant rent of from 4*l.* to 6*l.* per acre, while they receive from 6*d.* to 8*d.* a day for their labour, and they are thus reduced to a state of misery which can scarcely be believed.

The benefit which would be derived from the extension of canals would

Cætera desunt.

To the Earl of Harrington.

[409.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 7th April, 1808.

Lord Hawkesbury has suggested to me the expediency of collecting in a camp upon the Curragh a large proportion of the army, with a view particularly to the discipline of the young militia soldiers and the state of the temper of the militia, and the general discipline and efficiency of the whole army. The Duke of York, to, whom I communicated this suggestion, has proposed that we should have more camps than one, with a view principally to the aid to be derived from the troops in the construction of our fortresses, for which measure His Royal Highness thinks the government more prepared than I know they are, as well as with a view to the discipline of the army.

I lose no time in apprising you of these suggestions, in order that you may turn them over in your mind. Converse with the Lord Lieutenant upon them, and let me know your wishes whether I shall discourage them or encourage them.

You are to have Sir David Baird upon the Irish staff for the north of Ireland, and I hope that I shall be able to get Sir John Cradock likewise.

I hope to be able to go to Ireland during the holidays, but I am not certain.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[410.]

To Lord Manners.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 7th April, 1808.

I agree with you in thinking that I have gone too far in the way of concession to the corporation of the city of Dublin in order to secure their support for my Police Bill; and I believe that I should have done better if I had kept the appointments to all the barristers' offices in the hands of government. However, I have in contemplation a remedy for this defect in the Bill as it is now drawn, which is to give to the Chancellor and Chief Justices the nomination of the nine barristers, from whom the Lord Mayor and Aldermen shall choose six, and the Common Council three from the six. I propose also to make another alteration, which will make my barristers more respectable, viz. to allow them to practise in the Common Law and Equity Courts, but not in criminal cases.

What do you think of this amendment? I hope to be able to go to Ireland in a few days, but I am not quite certain that I shall get away from hence.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[411.]

To Henry Stewart, Esq.

MY DEAR STEWART,

London, 7th April, 1808.

I have received your letter of the 2nd. I do not propose to make any arrangement for filling the offices which will be created by the Bill for the Police of Dublin until it will have passed the Legislature, and there will be ample time for the representation which you propose to make to government.

I intend to go to Ireland next week, if I can; but I am not yet certain that I shall be able to leave London.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[412.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 8th April, 1808.

Having made inquiries respecting the salary given to the Secretary of the Board of Health in this country, I find that the Board was dissolved about a year ago, and I don't find that any of its officers received a salary while it existed. I shall be much obliged to you if you will mention this circumstance to Lord Donoughmore.

I rather believe, however, that the Board of Health here was composed of persons of a description different from that of the persons composing the Board of Health in Ireland; at least there were no persons belonging to it of the rank and station of Lord Donoughmore; and this circumstance may afford a ground for granting a salary to the officers of the Board of Health in Ireland, although none was given here. I wish, however, before I decide upon this question, to know the nature of the services performed by the Board of Health in Ireland, under what instructions they are carried into execution, who instituted the Board, and upon what occasion; from all of which, and a comparison with the same information respecting the Board of Health in England, I shall be enabled to form an opinion on the subject and give it to the Lord-Lieutenant.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Murray.

[413.]

MY DEAR MURRAY,

London, 8th April, 1808.

The government are very desirous to send an officer of rank, in whom they can confide, to Sweden, in order to see how matters are going on there, and to make certain arrangements in case there should be any military cooperation from this country. Lord Castlereagh, with whom I conversed upon this subject this morning, has desired me to tell you that he wishes to employ you upon this service, and wishes that you would come over here as soon as possible after you will have received this letter. He will mention the subject to the Duke of York this afternoon; but he wishes you to lose no time, as he expects that, before you will have arrived, he will have settled his plan with the Cabinet.

You will do well, therefore, to make haste ; and I am particularly anxious that you should do so, as I may then see you even if I should go to Ireland next week.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[414.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 9th April, 1808.

I have considered your papers respecting the exercise ground at Strabane. I had wished that the barrack should be at Strabane, among other reasons, because the troops had always been there ; because it was a larger and a more important town than Lifford ; and because, supposing that we established the barrack at Lifford, the troops would still be obliged to go to market at Strabane. These reasons are equally valid, notwithstanding the expense of the exercise ground.

I recommend that the barrack should consequently be fixed at Strabane, whatever may be the sum to be paid for the ground for exercise. I don't see, however, any reason why ground should be purchased for exercise so near the barracks and the town as to cost that large sum of money. I have always been of opinion that we exercise our troops too much in the field and march them too little ; and I should prefer an exercise field at two or three miles distance from the barracks to one closer to it. I am informed by Lord Abercorn that, if we go upon this principle and have no objection to go a little farther from Strabane for our exercise field, there will be no difficulty in getting one at a cheaper rate than even the land at Lifford ; but if there should be no other ground for exercise, I don't see why the barrack should not be at Strabane and the exercise field in the spot near Lifford, which has been pointed out by Captain Delaney. I therefore strongly recommend that the barrack should be commenced at Strabane.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I have just received your letter of the 6th instant. I have no objection to the augmentation of Lord O'Neill's regiment of

militia, in the manner proposed by his Lordship ; nor have I any to the augmentation of the Clare regiment, under the same restrictions as those applied to the Antrim regiment.

To Captain Rainier.

[415.]

DEAR SIR,

-Harley-street, 11th April, 1808.

I immediately made application to the Treasury on the receipt of your letter to me on the subject of your offering yourself as a candidate to become member for Sandwich, and I have great satisfaction in being able to inform you that you will have the entire good will and countenance of the government on this occasion. I lament exceedingly the event which has caused a vacancy at Sandwich ; and the sentiments of respect and esteem which I entertain for your uncle's memory,* as well as the personal good wishes which I bear towards yourself, render me sincerely desirous that you should be chosen to fill the vacancy.

Ever, dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Hon. Brigadier-General Stewart.

[416.]

MY DEAR CHARLES,

London, 17th April, 1808.

I enclose a letter, with its enclosure, which I received this morning from Colonel Murray, to whom I had written by Lord Castlereagh's desire to request him to go to London with a view to his being employed in Sweden. This letter has followed me from London ; and as I don't know where Murray is, I shall be obliged to you if you will communicate with him on the subject to which it relates, and let him know whether there is any objection to his employing Colonel Offerey as he proposes. I see no objection to the measure.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* Admiral Rainier commanded the British naval forces in the East Indies when Sir Arthur Wellesley was preparing the armament for an attack on Batavia and on the Mauritius. See Supplementary Despatches, vol. ii., p. 309.

[417.]

To His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 19th April, 1808.

I have the honour of informing your Royal Highness that I wrote to his Grace the Lord-Lieutenant, according to your Royal Highness's commands, upon the subject of Colonel Robinson's office of barrack-master of St. Sepulchre's, Dublin ; and that his Grace will have great pleasure in complying with your Royal Highness's wishes in the appointment of Mr. Clements to be barrack-master.

His Grace is however unwilling to make an engagement to appoint Colonel Robinson's son in reversion to Mr. Clements, as he may not be in office, and may not have the power of carrying the engagement into execution ; but he will have no objection to complying with this part of your Royal Highness's wishes as expressed to me, if Mr. Clements should resign his office during his Grace's administration.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

H. R. H. the Duke of Kent to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,

Kensington Palace, 23rd April, 1808.

I am this day favoured with your obliging letter of the 19th instant, to which I hasten to reply, being anxious to express my most grateful acknowledgments to you for the active part you have taken in carrying through the arrangement I was solicitous to accomplish for the accommodation of that unfortunate old officer Colonel Robinson. At the same time I must entreat you to convey to the Duke of Richmond my warmest thanks for his kindness in acquiescing with my wishes upon this occasion, of which you may assure him I shall ever retain the most grateful remembrance.

Having addressed a letter to your house in town a few days since (being unacquainted with your removal to Ireland), which I presume will have been forwarded to you there, and having reason to hope that I may shortly hear from you upon the subject of it, which will probably occasion my intruding myself on you again, I will not take up more of your time at present than is necessary to enable me to assure you of those sentiments of high regard and esteem with which I ever remain,

Dear Sir Arthur, yours faithfully,

EDWARD.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[418.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 22nd April, 1808.

I received your letter of the 19th last night ; and the Duke of Richmond will write to you by this express on the subject of the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth. I sail this night, and shall be in London on Monday, and will attend the cabinet on any-day that will be appointed for considering this subject.

All the accounts which we have received of the state of the disturbed counties to the southward tend to prove that the disturbances ought not to be attributed to any constitutional distinction between Roman Catholics and Protestants. They are to be attributed in my opinion, in the first instance, to the restless disposition of the people ; in some degree to the oppression of their landlords, principally the resident gentry of the country, in the demand of exorbitant rents for land, and in the payment of low wages for labour ; although I believe that the complaints of these grievances are much exaggerated, particularly of the latter. Another evil that has operated to prevent the early suppression of these disturbances, the punishment of the perpetrators of them, and the full effect which might have been expected even from the examples which were made at the last assizes, is the spirit of party which prevails in that part of Ireland. It is impossible to convey an accurate notion of its extent, or of the evils of which it is either the cause or the aggravation.

I will take care that you shall have the best opinions on the origin of these disturbances before the debate upon the Catholic petition will take place.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Lord Hawkesbury to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR WELLESLEY,

Charles-street, 19th April, 1808.

It is very material that the question relative to the grant to Maynooth College should be settled in Cabinet next week, and it would be desirable that you should be present if possible at the discussion. In the mean time, if the opinion of the Irish government concurs with our own, that the addition of fifty priests to the original establishment of two hundred is sufficient, and is indeed as large an increase as we can be justified in making consistently with a due regard to the Protestant Establishment, it might serve to remove difficulties if the Duke of Richmond wrote to me a private letter to that effect. I am not acquainted with his individual opinion.

That of the Chancellor I know to be particularly jealous of this seminary for the propagation of Popery.

I received the monthly reports from the Duke yesterday. With the exception of Tipperary, Waterford, Limerick, and Kerry, they appear to be favourable, and I do not think there is any ground for supposing that the disturbances in these counties are in any respect to be considered as political. It may be very important in the discussions on the Catholic question to be able to say that they are not founded on any distinction between Catholic and Protestant. This I believe to be the fact, but I wish you would endeavour to ascertain the truth of this observation with some degree of accuracy.

The last accounts from Sweden are favourable, and give us ground to entertain the most sanguine expectations that any attempt of the French to invade Sweden from Zealand or Germany may, during the summer, be rendered abortive. The public sentiment in Sweden was as good as possible, and the greatest exertions were making for arming the country.

Believe me to be, my dear Wellesley,

Very sincerely yours,

HAWKESBURY.

[419.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 26th April, 1808.

I enclose a note and other papers received from Lord Abercorn relative to exercise ground at Strabane. It is desirable that this ground should be looked at by one of the gentlemen of the Quartermaster-General's department, in order to ascertain whether it will answer in point of situation. I don't think the worse of it for being uneven; and there will be no difficulty and no great expense in blowing up and removing the rocks which are stated to be upon it. If this piece of ground will not answer, I dare say that Lord Abercorn will experience no difficulty in giving us twenty-four acres within a mile and a half of the town of Strabane.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[420.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 26th April, 1808.

I enclose a letter which I have received from Mr. Croker relative to his father's office of Surveyor-General of Excise. I

rather believe that you would be inclined to appoint to this office a person educated in the Excise ; and if this should be the case, you could not do better than appoint young Croker. This provision for the family will be, however, rather extravagant.

Will you be so kind as to show the last paragraph of the enclosed letter to Mr. Trail ?

There is nothing new ; but indeed I have not yet seen any of the ministers. Moore goes in a few days. His object is to defend Sweden against attack from Norway, or on the side of Scania, particularly the port of Gottenburgh. It is now generally believed that the Rochefort squadron is in the Mediterranean.

I saw Rose yesterday, who told me that there was but little chance of a rupture with America.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[421.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 26th April, 1808.

I have received your letter of the 22nd. The return from the clergy is indeed very inaccurate ; and I think its result is not favourable to our view of the Maynooth returns, supposing that the number of clergymen in each diocese is correct.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

[422.]

SIR,

London, 29th April, 1808.

Your Royal Highness's commands of the 20th instant reached me only this day, as they had followed me to Ireland.

Before I left Dublin the Lord-Lieutenant had made an arrangement for filling the office of collector of excise at Cork, which had been communicated by his Grace's desire to the party interested in it, and I am therefore afraid that it will not be in his power to promote Mr. Cameron according to your Royal Highness's commands.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[423.]

To Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

London, 2nd May, 1808.

My brother has desired me to mention to you the case of Captain Armstrong of Ramsay's corps, which appears rather a hard one. He was eldest Captain of that corps, and was promoted by Lord Lake to the Majority of the 80th, which promotion was not confirmed by His Royal Highness. In the mean time the Majority of Ramsay's corps became vacant, and as Armstrong was supposed to have been removed to the 80th, a junior Captain was appointed Major; and Armstrong is now Captain in Ramsay's corps, under the command of the officer who was junior to him.

Will you be so kind as to draw the attention of His Royal Highness to this circumstance?

Captain Armstrong is a very respectable man, who was much esteemed by Lord Wellesley, Lord Lake, and by my brother Henry, with whom he was in the provinces of Oude, and at whose instance I mention his case to you.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[424.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 2nd May, 1808.

I enclose a letter from Denis Browne, and a paper from Lord Sligo, respecting a sum of money advanced to be laid out on the harbour of Westport, to which Lord Sligo wants to have an addition. I told him that I believed the whole of the remainder of the 6000*l.* had been granted to Mr. Hamilton for the pier of Balbriggan. If there should be any of it remaining, I see no objection to Lord Sligo having it, provided he has accounted for the sum which he has already received, and if there be reason to believe that the work which he is carrying on is an useful one to the public. I have received your letter of the 27th.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Ed. Newenham, Bart., and the Magistrates of the County of Dublin. [425.]

GENTLEMEN,

London, 3rd May, 1808.

I have had the honour of receiving your letter. I propose to alter the clause in the Police Bill which orders that all acts required to be done by a magistrate should be done in the police office ; and my intention is to provide that the police magistrates throughout the police district should have in all things a concurrent jurisdiction with the ordinary justices of the peace. In respect to the other clause to which you have referred, if I should find that it is liable to the construction which you have given to it, or if it can be abused, I will propose an alteration of it.

I have the honour, &c,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

John Giffard, Esq., to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR GENERAL,

30th April, 1808.

I hope your Police Bill has passed, that you may avoid encountering the folly of our Common Council in your House. Yesterday was entirely spent in debating that and another subject, which I shall mention just now. The part objected to was the investing lawyers with magisterial authority. It was in vain to argue that their charter was not infringed, but greatly enlarged, and necessarily altered to fit it to its extension : after several hours spent in arguing, they came to a string of resolutions, one only of which was decidedly hostile to your Bill. These resolutions they ordered to be forwarded to their representatives and friends in Parliament, and to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland. This latter order I resisted, on the ground that His Royal Highness, though the friend and protector of the corporation of Dublin, should never be called upon but on the most important occasions, such as that wherein he was pleased to defend the Constitution in Church and State by supporting the city's petition. The reply was, that the chartered rights of corporations were part of the Constitution, and to infringe one was to injure the other.

These resolutions, Sir, were but the act of one House (the Commons) of the Common Council. I know not how to mention those matters to His Royal Highness, unless you will have the goodness to do it. It grieves me extremely that he should be annoyed by our folly, notwithstanding every resistance I could make.

The other subject of debate, which was also confined to the Commons' House—the Union—a motion was made by a Mr. Willis, a leather-breeches maker, "that the House still retained the opinion that it had on a former occasion [stated] declared against the Union." After much debate, I moved the previous question, which I lost—49 against 32. The main question was then carried, and then a motion was made to petition Parliament for a repeal of the Act of Union. This last motion I had the good fortune to place in such a ridiculous point of view, that it was actually laughed out of

the House. This, though it consumed several hours, was all that was done on this subject; and when I consider that formerly I was the single supporter of the Union in either House of the Common Council, no friend even daring to second me, I think it no small acquisition that the whole Board of Aldermen and thirty-two of the Commons now refuse to entertain the subject.

I am, dear General,
With infinite gratitude and respect,
Your most faithful humble servant,
JOHN GIFFARD.

[426.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 3rd May, 1808.

I have received your letters of the 28th and 29th. I forgot to talk to you about the Custom House at Cork while I was in Ireland. My mind is made up upon it; but it is necessary, in conveying the orders for commencing the work, to enter in some degree into a detail of the considerations which induce me to consent to incur the expense, which I cannot well do till I shall return to Dublin. I expect, however, that Parliament will be up by the end of this month, and I will go over immediately.

We should send somebody into that part of the country to which Brigade-Major Warburton refers in his letters. I conceive that there is nothing in the reports which have been made to him. His informant has found in the country the existence of a general disinclination to the government, and he has embroidered this fact with plots, oaths, &c. &c., which don't exist. I dare say that there are meetings, and that the language at those meetings is highly seditious; but nothing which can be noticed by government, or which is likely to lead to any immediate consequence, or which could be prevented by any measure we could adopt. I think that it would be proper to authorize Brigade-Major Warburton to give some money to his informant.

I return Corbet's and Warburton's letters. It would be desirable, if possible, to delay sending a commissioner into the Cavan district till we should see what benefit has resulted from the mission to Cork. However, as this last has been of no very great duration, and it is probable that that to Cavan would be even shorter, I see no objection to permitting the commissioner to go immediately if the measure should be pressed.

MAY, 1808.

UNPOPULARITY OF THE UNION.

409

I believe that Elwood must be the Registrar-General of tobacco.

I see no objection to the appointment of Mr. Thornborough to be the clerk in the Collector's office of Dublin for the stamp duties.

I will see Jackson immediately about our excise arrangements.

I enclose letters from Brigade-Major Semple and Brigade-Major Harding.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[427.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 3rd May, 1808.

I enclose the report which we have received from a man whom we had sent to the banks of the Shannon, in the neighbourhood of Banagher, in consequence of the reports which we had received from the officer of artillery in charge of the batteries on the islands of Meelick and Kilogue, upon which I wrote to you from Dublin. I am convinced that this report is true; it is confirmed by others from other quarters, particularly that part of it which relates to the mistress of the storekeeper at the battery.

I have frequently mentioned to you the general unpopularity of the Union in Ireland. The dislike of it is certainly increasing; and I have reason to believe that the disaffected are adopting measures to prevail upon persons to associate for the purpose of procuring its repeal. You'll see that this subject is adverted to in the enclosed report.

——, alias ——, who is in London, declares positively that he knows that that is the object of the disaffected; and I think the notion that they can stand alone is becoming very prevalent in Ireland.

The disaffected found their measures upon the unpopularity of the Union; and when they have prevailed upon a man to act with them to procure its repeal, they consider, and have found, the difficulty of prevailing upon him to act with them with a view to separation not very great.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[428.]

To the Earl of Harrington.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 4th May, 1808.

I have received your letter of the 30th April. I acknowledge that I was desirous that you should not leave Ireland, although I could not state any except general reasons for which you should refrain from coming over; but, as I told you at the Castle, there is nothing to prevent you from coming at present; and I agree entirely with the Duke of Richmond, that it is best that you should come immediately, and return before the camps will be formed. I hear from Colonel Gordon that he sent you your leave on the day he received your letter, and I therefore hope that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you in London in a few days.

I hear that the ball given to the Duke was very magnificent, and I hope that Lady Harrington was sufficiently recovered to go to it, and that she and Lady Anna Maria enjoyed it.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[429.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 5th May, 1808.

I received your letter of the 30th last night.

I have heard of the magnificence of the ball given to you by the Sackville-street Club from many quarters, and of the manner in which you were received. What I enjoy most in this popular reception is the knowledge that I have that nothing has ever been done with a view to acquire it; and that, regardless of the impression which you might make upon individuals, you have governed the country as you have thought best yourself. Popularity may not last, but you can never lose this consciousness, and it will always be a satisfaction to you, let what will become of the *bloody popularity*, as Falkiner calls it.

I enclose a memorandum from Lord Dufferin, and a letter from Mr. Rowley, both desiring preferment in the Church. Both deserve consideration.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Manners.

[430.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 9th May, 1808.

I received your letter of the 3rd yesterday; and upon considering the proposal of Baron George in respect to the clause to be introduced into the Police Bill, I am apprehensive that it will not answer, however desirable it may be that the law should be as Baron George wishes. The fact is, that the matter of the clause does not refer to police, and I am very much afraid that we should not be able to pass it through the House of Commons; and if we should succeed, it would be fatal to our Bill in the House of Lords.

I have just seen our friend Meeke, who is very well, and desires to be kindly remembered to you. Pray present my best respects to Lady Manners; and

Believe me, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Colonel Ross.

[431.]

DEAR ROSS,

London, 9th May, 1808.

I have received your letter, upon which I think it but fair towards you to give you an early and an explicit answer. It is generally imagined that because I am in office, and am attended to with great kindness by the Duke of York, an officer has nothing to do but to apply to me, and he is certain of being provided for; but the fact is, that I can apply for nobody that has not a claim of some description upon the Irish government, or who has not a claim of his own, upon military grounds, of such strength that it requires only to be stated to head-quarters in order to obtain for it the attention which is required; and I have long ago exhausted the attention of the Duke of York to claims founded upon my own desire to oblige on any general good opinion of the claimant, and I have determined to go no further in that way.

When I pressed upon His Royal Highness your desire for promotion, I did that to which you had a fair claim; but if I were to press him to make you Deputy Quartermaster-General or to place you on the staff in England, I should request a favour which I have no right to ask him, which would inevitably be refused, and it possibly would preclude the chance of

serving you or others in objects to which you might have a better claim, or which I might have a better right to ask.

Under these circumstances I must decline to say anything to the Duke of York upon this object of yours.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[432.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 9th May, 1808.

I have received your several letters of the 7th instant, and I regret much the appearance of scarcity in Ireland, more particularly as there is now no remedy for it. To stop the distilleries would certainly not answer as a remedy for the scarcity in Ireland, but would tend to increase the export of oats to Scotland, where the price is highest; and besides that, I believe that the distilleries usually stop themselves in the beginning of June.

All that we can do appears to be to remove the cavalry and the horses of the train from the North of Ireland towards the South as soon as possible, and I recommend that you should arrange this measure with the Commander of the Forces without loss of time, leaving in the North only such a number of horses as may be absolutely necessary to perform the duties.

I am afraid that resolutions and associations for economy would answer but little purpose, and would only create alarm; the price will of itself do more in the way of economy than any resolution or association. Neither do I think that the reduction of the ration of the horses of the cavalry would have any serious effect, at the same time that it would increase, if it did not create, the alarm.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[433.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD LITTLEHALES, London, 9th May, 1808.

I have received your several letters of the 4th and 5th. Of course, the application of the regiment for the difference of

price of their bread, according to the Regulations of the Army, must be attended to.

In respect to the accounts of the staff officers and others, which it is proposed should go direct to the Comptroller's Office, and not through the War Office, my opinion is that they ought all to come to the War Office; but they ought to be marked, as proposed, in the corner, with the words "Accounts of from to," and that then they should be sent forthwith from the War Office, and that a note should be made of the day on which each account passes through the War Office.

I cannot recommend that the clerks in the Yeomanry Office should have a larger salary than that allotted to them; and all that I can say is, that if they are not satisfied, they must resign their offices, and we must replace them by others.

In respect to the militia discharges, my opinion is, that till a man asks for his discharge he ought not to get it, whatever may be the irregularity which may have been discovered privately in his attestation; but that, as soon as he asks for his discharge on the ground of the irregularity on the face of it, and that this irregularity appears, the man must be discharged.

The Attorney-General's opinion is very good law, I dare say, for common purposes, but it won't do for soldiers. In all transactions with them you must have justice as well as law on your side.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I have desired that the cavalry and artillery horses might be moved from the North to the South of Ireland.

To D. Hopkins, Esq.

[434.]

SIR,

London, 9th May, 1808.

I have received your letter, and have read your book, upon the defence of the North-West frontier of Bengal, with great pleasure. I have no documents of any description relative to the history of India which are not already printed, and I do not believe Lord Wellesley has any. My time is much taken up by the necessary attendance on the duties of the office which I have the honour to fill, and in Parliament; but I shall be

happy to see you any day that you will call at my office, in Queen-street, Westminster.

I am, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

From ———, at Paris, with a Cypher explanation.

DEAR JOHN,

Paris, 9th May, 1808.

When I parted from you I went to Dublin, where I remained a few days, and from thence to Connemara, where I embarked on a smuggling brig belonging to Mr. ——— of Streamstown, which put me on shore near Dunkirk. I had a desire to see some of my old acquaintances in Paris, where I arrived in a few days. You would scarcely believe how kindly they received me, and pressed me no little to remain with them in the Irish Legion. I will not accept of any appointment. I know enough of it since I was with the Spaniards, and that I have got such a taste for trade (tread).

I will go from hence to Brest, and suppose I take 10 or 15 cards of lace and 5 or 6 pieces of silk with me to Ireland. I should think by that I shall clear more profit than anything else I can do. I am informed that Mrs. M'Cabe keeps an English school in Rouen, and that Mr. M'C. is gone to Russia: the sum of his fortune does not exceed 16 pounds; perhaps he might go from thence to Scotland. I hope I will shortly see you once more; meantime keep the money stirring in trade until we meet, and it will be increasing.

I remain,

SIR,

You see nothing in the foregoing letter that any government could be dissatisfied with, notwithstanding it contains vast information. For instance, when I speak of myself going to any seaport, all that follows after is concerning the fleet of that harbour; the number of cards of lace is the quantity of line-of-battle ships, and the number of pieces of silk is the quantity of frigates. The countries mentioned next is the destination of the fleet.

Likewise in speaking of any woman, whatever follows relates to the army of the line, and by adding a sufficient number of noughts before the figures it will make thousands of them, for which they are intended. In like manner, as above, the place of destination.

N.B. I will direct to ———, Post-office, London.

[435.]

To the Lord Advocate of Scotland.

MY LORD,

London, 10th May, 1808.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. ——— (the brother of Mr. ———), who was lately collector of Excise at Cork, in Ireland, has embezzled a large sum of the

public money in his charge, about 18,000*l.* sterling, with which, and with another sum of about 5000*l.*, out of which he defrauded the public, he has fled from that part of the United Kingdom; and I have reason to believe that he is at present concealed at Glasgow, where he frequents the Buck's Head inn, kept by Peter Jardine.

The circumstances attending the conduct of Mr. ——— having been laid before the Crown lawyers in Ireland, they have given an opinion that he cannot be proceeded against criminally excepting for some acts of fraud committed in the execution of his duty as collector of Excise some time previous to his flight, of which I understand that informations on oath have not yet been given. He can be arrested, therefore, only for his debt to the Crown on a writ of *capias*, and I have written to Ireland to request that the necessary measures may be adopted to procure a writ for the arrest of his person in Scotland.

In the mean time it is very desirable that Mr. ——— should be detained in Scotland; and I submit to your Lordship the expediency of giving directions to the magistrates of Glasgow to arrest and detain him till the necessary documents may arrive from Ireland.

I have reason to believe that Mr. ——— has at present in his possession a large sum of the public money, amounting to between 12,000*l.* and 18,000*l.* sterling.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[436.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 10th May, 1808.

Since I wrote to you yesterday on the subject of Mr. ———'s place of concealment, I have conversed upon it with the Lord Advocate of Scotland, who is of opinion that there will be no difficulty in arresting Mr. ——— immediately at Glasgow and detaining him there till time will be given to send persons from Ireland, by whose means and information his detention will be made legal. The Lord Advocate will proceed, in the first instance, on the authority and information of letters from me, copies of which I enclose; and I think it will be necessary that you should, as soon as possible, send to Glasgow persons

capable of recognizing Mr. ——— and of swearing the debt against him:

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[437.]

To the Lord Advocate of Scotland.

MY LORD,

London, 10th May, 1808.

In addition to my secret letter of this day's date, I have to inform your Lordship that I have reason to believe that Mr. ——— is known at the Buck's Head, at Glasgow, by the name of Holmes, and that he is certainly to be heard of at that house.

I am very anxious, however, that if possible the fictitious name by which he passes should not be mentioned, as I am apprehensive that the mention of it may discover the source from which I have received information of the place of his concealment. It may be stated that he had been traced from Ireland by the way of Kilmarnock.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[438.]

To Dr. Kennedy.

SIR,

London, 11th May, 1808.

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 6th instant, and you do me justice in believing that I am sincerely desirous of doing anything which can relieve the citizens of Dublin from any oppression under which they may labour from the conduct of the collectors of the local taxes. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the nature and extent of the evils to which you have referred to be able to propose a remedy for them in the Police Bill now under the consideration of Parliament; and I am rather of opinion that they are not necessarily the subject of legislative provision; but it will, no doubt, be in my power to provide an effectual remedy by directing towards them the attention of the magistrates. I shall certainly pay the earliest attention to them when I shall return to Ireland, and

shall be much obliged to you for any further information which you may give me.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Edward Barry, Esq.

[439.]

SIR,

London, 11th May, 1808.

From your letter of the 5th instant, which I have just had the honour of receiving, I judge that you are an officer in the army, and I assure you that you do me justice in believing that the only motive I have for bringing under the consideration of Parliament the Police Bill, which is now in its progress through the House of Commons, is a conscientious desire to serve the public in a branch of the administration of the government of Ireland which is at present shamefully deficient. I am concerned that those with whom you have conversed upon it should have a bad opinion of the measure and of the person who proposed it, and I have only to hope that they will see reason to alter that opinion hereafter in the increased tranquillity and security which they, in common with all the inhabitants of Dublin, will enjoy, without any addition whatever to the taxes which they at present pay.

In respect to the amendments of the measure which you propose, I am much afraid that they would render the measure more objectionable to a large class of persons, at the same time that it is not certain that they would render it more efficient. You and I may entertain a high opinion of the abilities of veteran officers and soldiers to perform any service which the public may require from them ; but that is not the general opinion ; and I am afraid that the corporation of Dublin in particular, and the inhabitants in general, would complain if the civil police of their city were to be placed on any military foundation. Upon the whole I am convinced that the measure which I have proposed will answer the purpose which I have in view better than any other which I have yet heard of, and I shall certainly continue to recommend its adoption to Parliament.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[440.]

To George Cavendish, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

London, 11th May, 1808.

I have no office excepting that of Chief Secretary of the government of Ireland. I am also Colonel of the 33rd regiment of foot.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[441.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD LITTLEHALES, London, 12th May, 1808.

I have received your letters to the 9th instant. Lord Harrington must be the best judge of the mode of forming his troops, and I see no objection to his brigade of light infantry. I doubt, however, whether the temporary commanding officer of one of these temporary battalions ought to have 3s. per diem. However, that is a point to be decided according to official precedent.

In regard to the stabling for the horses, that is a point to be decided by Lord Harrington. But I suspect that it would be a better and probably a cheaper arrangement to pay rent for the stables and to forage the horses in the usual manner. Consult Handfield upon this point. Lord Harrington does not state the demand beyond the usual price of the ration; but if it should not be much dearer than the ration, and Handfield should think it a more convenient mode of finding forage for the cavalry, I see no objection to it.

In answer to your letter of the 7th, I have to say that I see no objection to granting the arms to the sea fencibles in Captain Evans's division, for whom he has applied; but it must be understood that they are to be returned when the exigency will no longer exist on account of which they are asked, and the practice must not be extended excepting in any special cases.

The object of my new Militia Bill is what you have stated in your letter of the 9th.

I see no objection to the plan for the Quartermaster-General's office; but no official decision can be given upon it till the estimate of its expense will be sent in.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[442.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 12th May, 1808.

Government are in a very bad scrape respecting Dr. Duigenan's appointment to the Privy Council, which you will recollect was recommended at the express desire of Lord Hawkesbury. The House of Commons was exceedingly unwilling to limit the grant to Maynooth College. We had two debates upon it, and Canning stayed away from both, and Castlereagh from the last. It was consequently believed that the government were divided in opinion, and our majority on the second night was but small. In the second debate Duigenan, who had not attended the first debate, made a speech in which he said that the Catholics, to a man, were hostile to the government, or something to that effect; and then the question was asked whether Duigenan was a Privy Councillor in Ireland, to which subject allusion was made in the course of the debate. Perceval, the only minister present, said he did not know whether the appointment was made or not, and I said that I knew that you had recommended that the King should call Dr. Duigenan to the Privy Council in Ireland.

Barham, who had called Duigenan to order for what he had said in debate, then gave notice that he should make a motion on his appointment to the Privy Council.

We had this motion last night, and never did I witness such a debate. Nobody spoke on our side excepting myself and John Beresford, who did not pretend to justify the appointment, and rather did us harm. The appointment is considered here to be completely unjustifiable, although the desire that it should be made came from hence. In short, they consider themselves in a confounded scrape, and thought the best way of getting out of it was to say nothing.

It is very extraordinary that they will not be convinced in this country that the Irish do not care about appointments of that description, and that the government weaken themselves much more here and consequently in Ireland by submitting to abuse, than they could do by the manly avowal and justification of any appointment which they might make. I am convinced that we have not heard the last of this appointment yet.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[443.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 13th May, 1808.

I have been obliged to delay answering some points in your several letters. In respect to Lord Melville's recommendation on the subject of Cardinal Caponi's state paper, my opinion is that it proceeds on an erroneous principle, viz., that the Roman Catholics in Ireland are a party in the state acting together on a principle of religion. Now I think that the history of the two last centuries, and particularly that of the last twenty years, will prove clearly that they are a religious party combined for political purposes and objects, and that, with very few exceptions, they are indifferent upon the fate of their religion. The mistaken notions upon this subject are the cause of all the mistaken, although well intended, measures which have been adopted in respect to the Roman Catholics, and the same false views induce Lord Melville to believe that Buonaparte's ill treatment of the Pope would induce the Roman Catholics of Ireland to detest the name of Buonaparte. This treatment would have the expected effect if the Irish were very anxious about their religion, or were more anxious about their religion than their politics; but it will be found that they will laugh at the Pope, his guards, and Cardinal Caponi, and only increase their admiration of Buonaparte. However, there are some whose indignation will be excited or rather increased by the knowledge of the events at home, and it would be desirable to circulate very extensively an account of those events, with copies of Cardinal Caponi's state paper and of Buonaparte's order to the Pope's guards, in which he assures them that they shall in future be commanded by officers not priests, thus in another instance effecting a revolution in an ancient and respectable state by a mere order to his troops.

I suspect that the priests will not aid in circulating this publication; but it might be done equally effectually, I believe, by the magistrates.

I conclude that you have settled with General Floyd to post some troops in the county of Kilkenny.

I have just received your letter of the 10th instant. I think that you had better not diminish the ration of the cavalry. The measure will do but little good, and will create a great alarm.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

[444.]

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 15th May, 1808.

I have this night received your letter of the 13th. My opinion is that you ought to refer the memorial of Messrs. Frazer and Medlicott officially to Colonel Handfield, and desire him to report upon it. The argument that as the contractor gains and gives no credit for his gains, he ought to stand to his losses or forfeit the penalty, is conclusive as far as it can be applied to the general state of the markets, or to that state of them which could have been foreseen by the contractor at the time he offered his contract. A sudden and unforeseen rise of price may alter the case entirely; nevertheless it is very difficult for government to form an opinion of the expediency of relieving the contractor from his engagements gratuitously.

Handfield must be the best judge upon this point; at the same time, if I were in his situation, I should review the prices in the market and the country from the commencement of the contractor's term to the present day, and compare those prices with the contract price for the same period, and thus ascertain the contractor's profit or loss, before I should recommend to government to relieve him from his engagement gratuitously. If he is to be relieved, I don't know whether a fairer mode of supplying the cavalry in future than that proposed by Handfield in his private note can be adopted.

I have likewise received your letter of the 13th, enclosing one from Lord Clonbrock. My opinion is, that, where there are no troops, the gentlemen of the country must be allowed to take out the yeomanry to oppose these sudden attacks by Threshers, and the yeomanry so taken out must be paid for their service. But the gentlemen who thus take out men ought to be obliged to send on the following day to the Yeomanry Brigade-Major, and the Brigade-Major to the Yeomanry Office, a return of the number of men thus employed, and the same return on every day it will be necessary to employ the men, till the Lord Lieutenant will send his orders on the subject.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[445.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, Sunday night, 15th May, 1808.

I send you a despatch from the Duke of Richmond respecting the state and price of provisions in Ireland, and a note from Mr. Gale, a corn merchant in Dublin, and one from Colonel Handfield, the Commissary-General, with the note of the market in Dublin on the 13th. I likewise enclose the memorials from the towns of Drogheda and Belfast, referred to in the Duke's despatch.

From these papers it appears that the price of oats throughout the southern part of Ireland has not risen above the ordinary Dublin price, and the price in Dublin has fallen on the last market-day. In the north the distress is certainly very great, owing principally to the distress in and exportation to Scotland. The stoppage of the distilleries in Ireland will not relieve distress in Ireland, as the exportation will still continue to Scotland. The only relief for both countries appears to be to stop the distilleries in both.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[446.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 19th May, 1808.

I have received your letter of the 14th. I don't recollect to have received any memorial for the Lord Lieutenant upon any subject which I did not deliver to him, and certainly none from the Directors of the Grand Canal on the subject to which they refer in the memorial which you have transmitted. I recollect that when we had under consideration the construction of additional docks at the Custom House, Mr. Foster, among other plans which he proposed for my consideration, informed me that the Directors of the Grand Canal had made an offer to sell their docks. I don't believe he gave me their memorial, or even told me that he had received one from them; but, upon considering that plan, I was of opinion that it would be more expensive to the public, and less convenient to the merchants and to the transaction of the business of the port, than the plan proposed of building additional dockage at the Custom House; and I told Mr. Foster that I thought it would

not answer. I will inquire of Mr. Foster, however, whether he received any memorial from the Directors, and what he has done with it.

I have the pleasure to inform you that Mr. ——— is taken at Glasgow, and it is desirable that all the evidence that is in your power to enable the magistrates of Glasgow to detain him should be sent over as soon as possible.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Lord Bishop of Cork and Ross:

[447.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 19th May, 1808.

I have received your Lordship's letter of the 12th instant, and I enclose copies of the Bills relating to the Church in Ireland, as they have passed the Commons.

The Curates' Bill, which is now under the consideration of the House of Commons, is not referable to Ireland, although I intend to introduce one applicable to that country to a similar effect. I will attend, however, to your Lordship's suggestions upon that subject, and I hope that the measure which I shall propose will not bear unreasonably hard upon the rectors, at the same time that it will afford relief to the curates.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[448.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 19th May, 1808.

I recommend to you not to lessen the ration of the horses of the cavalry, particularly of those which go into camp. I am convinced that the cause of the great loss of horses in the countries where we put them in camp is, first, that we don't at that time increase their ration; secondly, that we overgroom them. A horse would not be in health at grass (much less at his picquets) if he were deprived of the warmth afforded by the dust in his coat. I therefore strongly recommend to you not to

diminish the ration : at least, of that part of the cavalry which will be in camp.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[449.]

To the Right Hon. John Foster.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 22nd May, 1808.

I enclose the proceedings on the inquiry made by Mr. — into the state of the Excise collections at Cork, which, however incomplete and unsatisfactory in respect to its objects, exhibits as curious a specimen of gross fraud in officers and distillers as I have ever met with. Mr. — has not by any means fathomed his subject; between ourselves I doubt the propriety of sending *him* on this mission to Cork; and what he has done does not compensate for the extraordinary expense of his mission.

Concluding that your packet contained only your proposed Bill, I put it up in my box yesterday unopened, intending to read it at night, and therefore I was not at the office at the hour you appointed. Of course the collectors must pay for the tokens which they have received, and I will have orders sent to them accordingly.

I acknowledge that I have great objections to the proposed Bill respecting the Commissioners of Inquiry. Their powers appear to be sufficient to examine into the mode of conducting every branch of the public business, and to suggest new modes which may appear to them to be more expedient; and what I should look to in Ireland would be to apply a remedy to past abuses and inconveniences, without drawing the public attention to them to a degree which is not absolutely necessary. I should, therefore, recommend that the Commissioners should enter upon the subject of the arrears of dismissed and deceased collectors, if they should think proper, under their existing powers; that they should have the powers increased with a view to the general objects of their inquiry, if that should appear to be necessary; but that Parliament should not be called upon to direct their attention in a particular manner to this object.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[450.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 22nd May, 1808.

I have received your letters of the 16th and 18th May. I have perused the papers which you have sent me respecting Mr. ———'s case, and I think I never read such a history. I have sent the papers to Mr. Foster for his perusal. In the mean time I think it would be desirable to hint to Lord Annesley that all the Excise officers stationed at Cork ought to be removed to other stations; that those concerned in the late frauds on the public ought to be dismissed; that an endeavour should be made to fix at Cork one honest officer, for I see that one person of that description will force the distillers to watch each other, which will be equally beneficial to the revenue with twenty Excise officers; and that a copy of Mr. ———'s report and the evidence on Mr. ———'s complaint should be sent to the collector of Excise at Cork. I observe that ——— has been in correspondence with ———, which circumstance ought to be cleared up.

I enclose some papers which I have received from Mr. Foster respecting the claim of the Bank on certain collectors of the revenue for Bank tokens sent to them by order of government to be put in circulation. It would appear by these papers that the claim of the Bank is well founded; and I shall be obliged to you if you will send directions to the collectors to send up Bank notes in conformity with the orders of government of January, 1805.

I am inclined upon the whole to be of opinion that Mr. ———'s mission has not produced a benefit by any means commensurate with the expense which it has cost the public. He certainly has not got to the bottom of the frauds charged by Mr. ——— to have been committed by the distillers at Cork; nor has he laid open the frauds committed by Mr. ———, which must have come to his knowledge. No man will believe that Mr. ——— took two bribes and no more; or that when he ran away, Mr. ——— might not have made and recorded any useful discoveries on this point. Probably Mr. ——— particularly ought not to have been sent to Cork; but we must be well informed of the objects of a similar mission to another quarter before government consent to it.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[451.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 22nd May, 1808.

General Macdonald sent me the papers on Major Campbell's* case to read, and I was clearly of opinion that you could not do that which they wished me to urge you to do, viz., promise him a pardon in case he should be convicted. Indeed I doubt whether a pardon can be given to him in any event. I spoke to Lord Hawkesbury upon the subject last summer when you wrote to me, but he appeared then to think that an Irish jury would not convict him, and that it would not be possible to lay the case before the King for his commands without having further details. I will now mention the subject again, and will try to get the papers again from Macdonald; but in case I should not succeed, I wish you would send over any statement of the case which you may have.

You will have seen that we were hard run upon the stoppage of the distilleries on Thursday; and I think that we shall be beaten upon it to-morrow night. Government have mismanaged the question, and the country gentlemen are against us to a man. Many of the opposition voted with us, but many more of our friends against us.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[452.]

To the Right Hon. Denis Browne.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 22nd May, 1808.

I am perfectly aware of all the circumstances of your situation in reference to the questions affecting the Roman Catholics, and I have always understood that you would support their claims by your vote in Parliament. I acknowledge that I consider it of much greater importance to government that you should, by the consistency of your conduct, retain your influence over that body than that even *your* vote should be added to the majority which will divide against them, or that your name should not appear among the minority. I therefore beg that you will act upon this question as you have always acted upon questions on the same subject, without reference to the line which government will take, and that you will believe me

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* Major Campbell killed a brother officer in a duel, at which no person was present.

To Colonel Gordon.

[453.]

MY DEAR COLONEL,

London, 24th May, 1808.

I enclose a letter which I have received from Mr. Lloyd, the member for the King's County, regarding promotion for his brother, Captain Lloyd of the 43rd regiment. In a conversation which I had with him, he said that he would be equally satisfied if his brother should be appointed to a majority by purchase.

I also enclose another letter which I have received from Colonel O'Dell, the member for the county of Limerick, explaining different objects which he has in view for his son, Cornet O'Dell of the 20th light dragoons. He has been with me since he wrote this letter, and has expressed a most earnest desire to have one month's leave of absence for the Cornet, which I told him I was convinced His Royal Highness would not grant excepting upon the application of the commanding officer of the regiment, though perhaps, as Lord Heathfield had in the first instance granted two months' leave, His Royal Highness may be disposed to grant the extension now requested.

I have to apologise to you for troubling you upon these subjects; but you must be aware that I cannot avoid sending answers to these applications when they are made to me, and much time will elapse before the Irish gentlemen will be made to understand that military favour and promotion must depend upon military claims.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*To Richard Griffith, Esq.**

[454.]

SIR,

London, 24th May, 1808.

I have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 22nd instant; and although my attention has been necessarily turned to other objects of importance since I have been in London, I have not been inattentive to those on which you did me the honour to speak to me when I was last in Dublin. I have in contemplation a plan for continuing in Ireland the works referred to by you, which are so important to the agriculture

* The eminent Civil Engineer, to whom Ireland is greatly indebted.

and prosperity of that country, upon which I shall be happy to converse with you on any day that you will do me the favour of calling at my office.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Richard Griffith, Esq., to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

SIR,

No. 28, St. Alban's Street, 22nd May, 1808.

I did myself the honour of waiting on you on Friday last at the Irish Office for the purpose of reminding you of a conversation we lately had in Dublin, on the subject of a grant being made for the extension of inland navigation in Ireland. As the session is far advanced, and as other important business presses on your attention, I fear that unless you should see the proposed measure in the light in which it appears to me, you may (notwithstanding the decided manner in which the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland has expressed himself concerning it) be induced to postpone it. And as I fear that you would, by deferring the measure to another year, do a material injury to Ireland, and at the same time relinquish the just popularity which would attach to the Duke of Richmond's administration by carrying into effect a measure so highly advantageous to the country over which he presides, I hope you will not think me obtrusive in offering to your consideration a few observations on this subject, and on others incidental to it.

It is the duty of Ministers (of which, I am persuaded, you have not been unmindful) not only to look at the present, but into the probable future state of the country which they govern, and to make timely preparation for such contingencies as are likely to arise therein. Of the present state of Ireland, I think I am warranted in saying that it is not prosperous, and that it is with difficulty that the people are able to support their present burthens; but if we look forward to the period (distant only eleven and a half years) when, by the Act of Union, Ireland will be subject to the same taxes with England, I do not hesitate to affirm that, unless some fundamental improvements shall be effected therein, and that those improvements shall have had sufficient time effectually to operate before the above period arrives, Ireland will be utterly unable to pay the taxes then to be imposed, and that consequently a most material part of the Act of Union will thereby be virtually repealed.

If Great Britain (who by a senseless impolicy has for above half a century paid an annual tribute of from five to seven millions sterling to America and the countries bordering on the Baltic in bounties on the agriculture of those countries) be no longer disposed to foster the internal improvement and population of hostile nations, and thereby to augment their resources in men and money, she will look to her genial and prolific sister to supply her with corn, and by a well-considered encouragement of the agriculture of Ireland render the United Kingdom independent of foreign countries for bread; and she will at the same time increase the industry and promote the welfare of a country whose redundant population furnishes the best resource for recruiting the navies and armies of the Empire.

What, then, is the best means of encouraging the agriculture of Ireland?

I reply (with confidence, but not without due consideration) that the extension of inland navigation in Ireland is the most permanent as well as the most certain and expeditious means of promoting the agriculture of that country. The operation of this measure will be almost instantaneous; its effects have been tried, and they have worked like magic.

Inland navigation was at all times a cherished object with the Irish Parliament, as the best means of improving and extending the agriculture of the country; but unfortunately the money formerly granted by the Legislature for extending inland navigation was not expended either with judgment or fidelity, a conduct the reverse of which may be expected from the present Directors-General of Inland Navigation.

The inland and coast bounties on the carriage of corn was the measure on which the late Lord Pery established his character as an Irish patriot; and Mr. Foster has with equal justice possessed himself of the public esteem by his constant attention to and judicious modification of the corn-laws of Ireland. The people of Ireland are also grateful to Sir John Newport for the Corn Intercourse Bill, which has laid the foundation of their future wealth and happiness; but that great measure can only be rendered effectually and extensively beneficial by the increase of inland navigation in Ireland, as the charges of land-carriage are so great (and are daily increasing) as to make it impossible to convey corn, with any prospect of gain, from any considerable distance to the sea-coast. I mentioned the foregoing circumstances in order to show you that the thinking part of the Irish community are more alive than perhaps may be generally imagined to the subject of the internal improvement of the country; and I can with truth assure you that there is at this moment great discontent among the Irish farmers (whose influence you know is very extensive) on the subject of the abolition of the inland and coast bounties on the carriage of corn, which they deemed and frequently called their hereditary revenue. Let me ask you, Sir, what is a million, more or less, of debt, in comparison with the advantages arising from internal industry, increased population, and a contented because a well-employed peasantry?

It may possibly occur to you that if inland navigation be so great an acquisition to public welfare, it may prove equally beneficial in the way of private adventure (and you have the success of many English canals to support this idea), and that it would consequently be a lavishment of the public resources to grant any money in aid of inland navigation in Ireland. I do not think it necessary to answer this objection by contrasting the poverty of Ireland with the almost boundless wealth of England, nor to show that the great difference between the two countries is more manifest in the comparative state of their respective internal commerce than in any other point; it is quite sufficient to observe that the proprietors of the Grand Canal, after having expended 1,200,000*l.* of their private property, and also about 250,000*l.* received in bounties from government, and after toiling incessantly for above thirty-six years (during twenty-six years of which no dividend was made), are now, with great difficulty (after paying the interest of their debt), enabled to make a dividend on their stock of 6 per cent. per annum. And the proprietors of the Royal Canal, after having expended the whole of the capital subscribed by them, after having bor-

rowed and expended a considerable sum of money (the interest whereof their revenues are unequal to pay), and after having also received near 200,000*l.* from the public purse, are at this moment little better than bankrupts! With such examples before their eyes, it is not probable that other adventurers will suddenly arise to undertake new canals in Ireland. And yet, although the individuals who embarked in the two great undertakings above quoted have sustained considerable losses, there can be no doubt that the public has derived very important benefits from them. The inference from these premises is, that if inland navigation is to be extended in Ireland, it must be aided by considerable bounties on the part of the Legislature.

It may be objected that fifteen-seventeenths of any sum now to be granted by the Imperial Parliament for the internal improvement of Ireland must be defrayed out of the British exchequer. Such is the condition of the Union. But has not poor and uncultivated Ireland paid without murmur her proportion of about a million of money expended on the Caledonian Canal? Is she not therefore entitled to a grant of at least an equal sum for her internal improvement?

The pledge given by Lord Castlereagh in the last session of the Irish Parliament is fresh in the recollection of hundreds of Irish gentlemen; many of whom are ready to prove (if it should be necessary) that when his Lordship (by way of a sop to Cerberus) moved for the grant of 500,000*l.* for the promotion of inland navigation in Ireland, and it was objected that the sum was utterly inadequate to the great object proposed, his Lordship distinctly answered the objection by declaring that, "if the sum then to be granted should be found insufficient, His Majesty's Ministers would be ready at a future period to support a motion for granting any further sum that should be found necessary for the accomplishment of the important measure of promoting and extending inland navigation in Ireland." How, then, can a government so pledged refuse to fulfil a sacred promise made by the Minister of the King's representative to the Irish Parliament in the moment of its final dissolution?

Mutual interest is the only lasting cement of friendship between nations. The Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland requires the full benefit of this cement; and I cannot conceive any measure so well calculated to render the connection between the two countries indissoluble as the mutual benefits that must result to both by the rich country receiving regular supplies of corn from the poor country, while the latter must necessarily look on the former as her best benefactor by furnishing an ample market at her door for the produce of her industry. Is not the present scarcity of corn in these countries, and the hostile attitude of America and the Baltic, a sufficient comment on the foregoing positions?

I have only to add that the proposed extension of inland navigation into the heart of the county of Tipperary upon one level of 121 Irish or 154 English miles, and uniting the three great rivers of Ireland, the Barrow, the Shannon, and the Suir, with the ports of Dublin, Waterford, and Limerick, and with the towns of Clonmel, Carrick, and Athlone, carries with it features of no common attraction, either in a military or a commercial point of view.

I have refrained from introducing the subject of this letter into public

discussion in any way, and I have kept back Mr. Montagu Mathew and other gentlemen from interfering in the business of the grant for the extension of inland navigation, in order that His Majesty's government in Ireland might enjoy the just popularity which will follow the adoption of the measure without being goaded to it by opposition; but I fear that if any further delay should take place in proposing the grant, the petitions from the King's County, and from the counties of Tipperary, Wicklow, &c., praying for parliamentary aid for the extension of inland navigation, will be pressed forward.

When you have a quarter of an hour of leisure I request the honour of an interview.

I have the honour to be, with respect, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

RICHARD GRIFFITH.

To James Trail, Esq.

[455.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 25th May, 1808.

I have received your letters of the 19th, 21st, and 22nd instant. In regard to Mr. ———'s case, it appears to me to be full of difficulties. The Scotch magistrates will be under the necessity of taking bail for the misdemeanor, and we shall then lose Mr. ———. If you should institute the civil suit in Scotland, and he should defend it, you will see by the enclosed paper that we shall have to submit to the revision of the Judges in Scotland all the proceedings of the Board of Excise in Ireland, and all our Excise laws, and the whole system of our Excise revenue. However, I believe that upon the whole this is the least objectionable measure, and that its only inconvenience will be its expense. It will be impossible to bring Mr. ——— to Ireland, and then institute a suit against him for the debt.

The Bank arrangement is settled, and Mr. Foster will bring in his Bill.

I think that the detachment may be withdrawn from Abbeytrale, and if it should be necessary to replace it there, Mr. Ellis should be called upon to give it accommodation.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY

[456.]

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 25th May, 1808. 1

I am very sorry that I had not the pleasure of seeing you when you were in London, for I should have been glad to have an opportunity of consulting you upon some measures which were then in contemplation.

I am very much concerned to find that the measures which have been carried into execution in this session of Parliament, in relation to the Church in Ireland, have not given satisfaction to the clergy; and I can declare that they were not adopted, or even brought under consideration, till they had been submitted to the opinions of all the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland who were in London, by Dr. Duigenan, who was desired by me to wait upon each of them. I had afterwards two meetings with the Primate, the Archbishops of Dublin and of Cashel, and I saw the two latter frequently; and the measures, as originally conceived, were altered repeatedly at their suggestions. I am sorry that the Church do not think that the government have gone far enough in manifesting an intention to support them; but I must observe to you that my original plan was to grant an additional 50,000*l.* for the purposes of the Glebe-house and Church Bill; and I altered it at the suggestion of the Primate and the Archbishop of Cashel, and the additional grant will be confined to 5000*l.* per annum, making the whole Parliamentary grant 10,000*l.*

I laid your proposed amendments before the Lord Primate, and his Grace, although he highly approved of them, was of opinion that it was best to confine the Bills to the objects originally in view, and to provide for other objects by other measures to be brought forward at a future period. I altered the Residence Bill, however, on the point relating to the Lord-Lieutenant's chaplains, in a manner which I hope will be satisfactory to your Lordship.

You will have observed that we did not allow Sir John Newport even to bring forward his measure respecting the First Fruits.

Mr. Foster's plan was a very able one, and founded upon very enlarged principles, but the Primate objected to it; and I had an objection to it that it went to create offices for architects, which we should find it very difficult to fill with persons in

MAY, 1808.

BUILDING NEW CHURCHES.

433

whom we could confide; and if they should be undeserving of confidence, the whole would have failed.

I had no opportunity in this session of bringing forward the measure which I had in contemplation, and which I certainly will adopt, respecting the power of franking by the Bishops.

I am much obliged to you for your information respecting the price of provisions and the state of the markets in your neighbourhood. We have been endeavouring to stop the distilleries in both countries, in which I hope we shall succeed.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[The annexed Scheme for building Glebe Houses and Churches, and for purchasing Glebes in Ireland, was laid before Mr. Perceval by Sir Arthur Wellesley, as shown by the following undated letter.]

The Right Hon. Spencer Perceval to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR,

I return you your papers, to which I have no manner of objection. Don't you think we might afford, in the case of building new churches where there have been none for twenty years, to advance a proportion, say one fourth of the whole sum, without requiring payment either of principal or interest? I cannot imagine that it would go to any great extent, and it is a very heavy burthen to fling upon a parish the building from the foundation a new church; and when it is to be built by those who are never to go into it, it will be felt sorely.

Our Excise is a good deal alarmed at the importation from Ireland of wine in bottles. The difficulty depends, as I understand it, upon this, that the French wine, which is back to a higher rate of duty, will come in as port-wine, and it would be impossible to detect it but by opening the bottles. When it comes in cask, tasting a drop from the whole cask decides upon the whole quantity, but a few bottles at the top of the hamper would be no proof of the quality of the liquor contained in the remainder. What is the wine which you most wished to be so imported? If it be the French wine, there would be no difficulty; but the difficulty begins when the permission is extended to the Portuguese wine.

Yours most truly,

S. P.

[ENCLOSURE.]

2 F

[ENCLOSURE.]

Scheme for Building Glebe Houses and Churches, and Purchasing Glebes, in Ireland.

ABSTRACT of the Number of Benefices in the several Dioceses in which Glebe Houses are requisite, distinguishing them in Classes, according to their Income.

Benefices.	Under £100.	From £100 to £200.	From £200 to £500.	Above £500.	Total.	Without Glebe.
Derry	1	..	6	5	12	3
Raphoe	..	3	2	6	11	5
Clogher	..	2	8	4	14	3
Kilmore	..	1	13	8	22	1
Meath	13	14	20	5	52	54
Dromore	4	1	3	1	9	7
Down and Connor	16	9	11	6	42	24
Ardagh	..	..	9	4	13	2
Armagh	5	2	4	6	17	8
Dublin	13	10	5	..	28	36
Kildare	8	10	8	1	27	21
Ferns and Leighlin	9	16	24	6	55	41
Ossory	10	18	8	6	42	14
Waterford and Lismore	3	8	8	1	20	13
Limerick and Ardfer	32	12	12	5	61	25
Killaloe and Kilfenora	4	11	15	6	36	14
Cork and Ross	10	11	12	13	46	14
Cloyne	8	12	14	12	46	21
Cashel and Emlý	5	6	6	7	24	9
Killala and Achonry	..	4	6	3	13	2
Elphin	5	8	8	..	21	17
Clonfert and Kilmacduagh	..	5	8	..	13	..
Tuam	1	2	4	11	18	12
Totals	147	165	214	116	642	346

From the foregoing statement, and the papers relating to the Established Church in Ireland (presented to the House of Commons last session of Parliament), it appears :

1. That 642 new glebe houses ought to be built in order to complete one for each benefice.
2. That 346 glebes are necessary to be procured for that purpose.
3. That 230 new churches must be erected in order to give a church to every benefice.

The completion of these in the shortest possible time is highly essential to the Established Church, and would give an energy and exertion towards its support which the present times peculiarly require. The whole seems practicable to be attained and completed within three or four years at most, without involving incumbents with any expense which could affect their properties or their families, without calling on the clergy to give up any of their time in planning or directing buildings or employing workmen, matters in which they are in general little skilled, and with the additional advantage of increasing the value of all livings under 200*l.* a year, by the

supply of a better residence without charge than the law now allows with charge.

To begin first with

Glebe Houses.

The appointment of situations and plans, and of the amount of expense, and the ordering and directing the works, should be vested entirely in the Bishops, or if they should decline, in the Board of First-Fruits, who should amend the plans furnished to them some years since by Primate Robinson, adapting the estimates to the present day, and who should also establish an architect for each province to act under the Bishops, settle with them the plans, and receive their directions; to assist with his advice such persons as may be appointed to superintend or undertake the buildings; to inspect the work from time to time during its progress, report upon its execution, and the fulfilment of contracts, and finally to measure the whole, and arrange the accounts; his certificate should be returned with the Bishop's as vouchers for the due application of the money; and it should be a constant part of his duty to inspect all glebe houses and churches with the rural deans (if there be any such), if not without them, once in every year, and report their state and condition. If the law be deficient in practicable provisions for enforcing an incumbent to preserve in continued repair all his buildings, it should be amended by giving ample powers for the purpose, whereby all dilapidations, with the consequent suits and losses to the church as well as to the individual, would be happily avoided, and a proper residence in complete order insured at all times, not only for the successor, but for the curate, in case he should in the absence or non-residence of the incumbent be appointed to occupy it.

The money requisite for building these houses is proposed to be advanced out of His Majesty's Treasury at the rate of 600*l.* a house on every benefice under the yearly value of 200*l.*, and of two years' income of every benefice above that value, with a power to the Bishop, under proper restrictions, in case of benefices of the yearly value of 200*l.*, and not exceeding 300*l.*, to increase the sum to any amount not more than 600*l.* in the whole, where local circumstances or dearness of materials may in his judgment require it.

On these advances for benefices above the yearly value of 200*l.* an interest after the rate of seven per cent. should be charged on each benefice, in the nature of a crown-rent, five per cent. thereof to indemnify the Treasury for the advance, and two per cent. to operate as a sinking-fund, which would pay off the principal in* years, when the benefice should be wholly disincumbered from it.

This charge of seven per cent. would in most cases not exceed the rent which an incumbent would be forced to pay for residence where he does not build, and be only one per cent. above the interest he would be subject to for the money if he should build; and for this one per cent. he would avoid all incumbrance on himself or his family, and rapidly liquidate the principal.

On the advances for benefices under the annual value of 200*l.*, such livings being too small to afford any deduction, it is proposed that the

* Blank in manuscript.

whole sum should be given to them without interest or sinking-fund ; but if the loss be objected to, it may be repaid by sequestering each living when it becomes vacant, until its income shall reimburse the Treasury, still allowing a sufficient part for the occasional pay of a curate to do the duties. This however, it is hoped, may not be deemed desirable.

The sums necessary would be as follows :—

	£		£
147 benefices under 100	} at 600 <i>l.</i> each	187,200	
165 from 100 <i>l.</i> to 200			
214 from 200 <i>l.</i> to 500		on an average of 800 <i>l.</i> each ..	171,200
116 from 500 <i>l.</i> and upwards,		on an average of 1600 <i>l.</i> each	185,600
			£544,000

for 356,800*l.* whereof government only advances its credit without any charge whatever, and with a sinking-fund amply adequate to a speedy discharge of the debt. The remaining 187,200*l.* will be a grant without repayment (except by sequestration, if thought advisable, at distant periods); and towards this is to be placed 50,000*l.* granted by Parliament, as yet unapplied, together with such part of the funds of the trustees as can be spared towards it; but even without any such part the annual expense, supposing the money raised at five per cent., would, with one per cent. for a sinking-fund, be about 8500*l.* a-year only; and for this small sum a measure obtaining the perpetual residence of 642 clergy will be effected with an expedition and facility not otherwise attainable under any plan as yet brought forward.

This sum of 187,200*l.* may be somewhat increased if advances, in pursuance of Bishops' directions for benefices of between 200*l.* and 300*l.* annual value, over and above the two years' income, should be added to it: and it seems reasonable that they should; the livings, however, in that class are not numerous.

The salaries and travelling-charges of four architects, at perhaps 800*l.* a-year each, will remain to be defrayed; but it is proposed that the Board of First-Fruits should take that charge, as well as the appointments, upon themselves.

Glebes.

The purchase of Glebes comes next to be considered; and it is presumed that 20 acres at an average will be fully sufficient for a parish. The foregoing statement shows that there are 346 livings without any.

The obvious mode would be to enable the Bishops to sell a part of the tithe of each benefice to an amount sufficient to purchase a glebe, the acquisition of which would be an equivalent in value for the tithe; and the presumption is that in every parish the squire or landlord or some respectable landowners would gladly give a good price for their own tithes. But if this scheme should appear doubtful or objectionable, the Treasury might advance the money for the purchase of the glebes, and the interest and sinking-fund be made a charge on the benefice in the nature of a crown-rent. The Treasury hereby gives only its credit, and not its money, and a great national object would be effected without any charge to the state.

Supposing then 346 glebes to be purchased, of 20 acres each, at 40*s.* per acre, and 20 years' purchase, the sum to be advanced would be 276,800*l.*; but it is to be hoped that in most parts of Ireland where glebes are wanting they could be procured on cheaper terms.

Churches.

It appears that there are 230 benefices at present without churches, the building of which may be estimated at 1000*l.* each—perhaps a smaller sum might answer to procure buildings equal to hold the congregations; but it is very desirable to make them something better than barns, and to give them by ornament and architecture that respectful appearance which is highly becoming a house of worship for the Established Church. The provincial architects will of course attend their building in like manner as that of the glebe houses.

The subject of building churches having long occupied the public attention, some persons have at times entertained an opinion that each parish should raise the necessary sum by cess ; but the Parliament has wisely thought otherwise, and uniformly granted for many years large sums towards it.

It is therefore proposed to grant the whole amount (230,000*l.*) out of the Treasury, towards the annual charges whereof a saving will ensue of the grant of 5000*l.* made every session for building churches; and it is possible the First-Fruits may be able to contribute considerably, exclusive of any funds spared by them towards building glebe houses; but even without the aid of that board, the expense will not be considerable, for the interest and sinking-fund may be estimated for the whole at 13,800*l.*, being six per cent., from which deducting the aforesaid saving of 5000*l.*, the charge remaining will be only 8800*l.* a-year.

Recapitulation of the foregoing, and of the Annual Expense to the State:

<i>Glebe Houses.</i>	£.
312 built, No. 1	187,200
330 built, No. 2	356,800
<i>Glebes of 20 Acres each.</i>	
346 purchased, No. 3	276,800
Churches, 230 built, No. 4	230,000
-But No. 2 and No. 3 having their separate provisions for interest and sinking fund }	1,050,800
	633,600
The Treasury will incur the expense only of	
The charges of which will be diminished by existing Funds, as already stated in No. 1, to about	8,500
No. 4, to	8,800
Leaving the total annual expense of the whole plan to the State	17,300
And if it should be thought expedient to replace No. 1 by sequestering the livings as they become vacant, the sum of will be repaid.	
And the total cost to the State will finally be only that of building the churches, towards which £5000 a year annual grant will be saved	

£.
417,200

187,200

230,000

The Bishop of Meath to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR SIR,

Ardbraccan House, 16th May, 1808.

I was very sorry to have been obliged to deny myself the pleasure of accepting your invitation to dinner while in London. I received your card only the evening before I had fixed for my return home. The morning I did myself the honour of calling at your door, I was very anxious to see you, in consequence of some conversation I had had with persons deeply interested in the state of the Church here, and who, I was grieved to find, were very much discontented, as well with the treatment they received from ministers, as at the disappointment of the expectations they had formed of what was to be done for us. In my anxiety for the success and the credit of the present administration, I should have felt encouraged to talk freely to you on the subject, and to suggest to you what occurred to me as well on the propriety of consulting with the persons I allude to on all matters connected with the Church here, as on the Bills then before the House of Commons. Their complaint was, that if they had been consulted, it was tardily, partially, and ungraciously, and merely to give their opinion on measures already agreed to be proposed to Parliament; that they had no encouragement to suggest what they might conceive to be essential to the preservation of the Establishment, or the removal of the difficulties under which we labour; and that to make new regulations for the application of the 50,000*l.* lent to us under a former administration, to allow us to rebuild churches where divine service has been performed within twenty years, and to extend Sir William Scott's Bill to Ireland, "was," to quote one of their letters, "the feeble aid to be afforded us by an administration who were to be our fast friends, and who, when it served their purpose, were eager to assure us of unqualified support." Perhaps some little attention to these complaints might have had the effect of adding some clauses to the Bills then in discussion that would have rendered them more effectual to the purposes they had in view, and more indicative of those friendly dispositions which nothing but prejudice could deny to have distinguished the present administration from their first entering into office. Some such clauses I took the liberty of submitting to you in a few marginal observations on the Bills, which I left for you with Mr. Flint.

Perhaps I was myself too sanguine in the expectations I had formed, from my knowledge of these friendly dispositions in the principal members of the administration, and I will not deny that I feel disappointed. I allow that it is a matter of great delicacy to bring the state of the Church in this part of the United Kingdom into public discussion. But you had resolved to bring it before Parliament; you felt yourselves to be in sufficient strength to carry all the measures you might propose for our support and melioration, and you well knew the hostile dispositions of those who, on a change, would succeed to your power. I and others had, therefore, hoped that nothing would have been left undone by you, which persons thoroughly acquainted with our wants, and competent to advise on every necessary arrangement, might have suggested to you. Among others, Mr. Foster's plan embraced, in all our opinions, everything we could have desired on the very essential points for which it meant to make

provision, and it appeared to me that no serious opposition to its adoption could be apprehended. Our wants were there certainly overstated. We should not have required anything near the funds which the plan supposed to be necessary. But this was in its favour. The Bishops, on a proper application, could have ascertained in a very short time the funds really called for. Having the facilities secured to them for uniting and disuniting parishes recommended in some of the clauses I allude to, they could have given accurate information of the number of parishes requiring glebes, glebe-houses, and churches, and they would be found to be far short, indeed, of what Mr. Foster stated; so that, in the opinion of every person I have conversed with, nothing appeared that could have authorized the utter rejection of the plan, to put us off with the substitution of what I fear we must now be for ever content with. The British ministry seem to be so nervous on all questions that affect us, that, with increasing difficulties, such as they have reason to apprehend, you will hardly find them disposed to set them afloat in another session. The consequence of all this is, that the disappointment of our friends is as marked as the triumph of our enemies. It is not to be conceived how dispirited all the thinking and respectable clergy whom I have seen appear to be, or what fears the friends of the Establishment begin to entertain. The event of this session makes them despair of that strong and vigorous support which our situation requires; and whether our ruin shall be gradual, or accomplished at one blow, is the only difference which a very worthy man writes me word he looks to from the different administrations by which the country may be governed. I do not altogether share in these apprehensions; but certainly the indefatigable exertions of our enemies, and the timidity of our friends, are but too well calculated to excite them. Such speeches as Mr. Barham's unanswered, and the Established Church tacitly admitted to be an anomaly in the State, and a yoke forced on the people; Sir John Newport's moving for a new valuation, which can have no other object in view than to impoverish the Church, to shift the supplies for her exigencies from the public funds on the incomes of the clergy, and thereby reduce them more to a level with the sectarian teachers; Dr. Duigenan sacrificed to Popish resentments, without a single friend of government, yourself excepted, stepping forward to screen him, or to defend the cause struck at through his side, and his zeal in which, and not his intemperance of language, has raised this storm against him.

But I have been inadvertently led into these observations, which can answer no purpose. My only design in taking up my pen was to apologise to you for not having accepted the honour of your invitation to dinner, and to remind you of a favour which the Bishops have been encouraged to expect from you. We stand on a different footing, with respect to our correspondence, from the temporal peers not in Parliament. We have still a public duty to discharge. We necessarily transact most of our diocesan business by letter, and we are frequently obliged to burden our clergy with expensive postage in transmitting official papers to them. You have experienced yourself the disadvantage of the circuitous and tardy mode you were obliged to adopt when you wished to get information from the Bishops on points which you judged to be of moment. Unless it is to be admitted that we and our clergy are as useless as the whole gang of oppositionists

represent us, there must be fair grounds on which to obtain for us the privilege of carrying on our *diocesan* correspondence free of postage.

I am sorry to inform you that oatmeal and potatoes are every day rising in price, and that there is every reason to apprehend that the cause is a real scarcity. Oatmeal sold at twenty-nine shillings the hundred last Wednesday at Navan, and at Kells on Saturday the buyers from the North did not leave a sufficiency of supply for the immediate neighbourhood, and many persons returned from the market without being able to procure either oatmeal or potatoes. The alarm is serious. Could you not send us a speedy and plentiful supply of rice? Towards the end of the last hard summer the people began to like it, and as milk is becoming plentiful, it will be the better relished by them.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Your obliged and your very faithful humble servant,

T. L. MEATH.

[457.]

To Dr. Duigenan.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 25th May, 1808.

I enclose you a letter which has been sent under cover to me, with that with which it came, in which a certain line is recommended to you in the debate of this night. I cannot, however, avoid taking this opportunity of telling you that all your friends, and particularly the King's Ministers, are anxious that if possible you should avoid speaking at all, or that if you should speak you should confine yourself within very narrow limits, and deliver yourself in moderate language.

Having so frequently delivered your opinions upon this subject, there can be no necessity for repeating them to-night; but if you should think it necessary to deliver them, it is very desirable that you should consider the situation in which you have been already placed in this session of Parliament, the difficulties under which the government have laboured on account of that situation, and the inconvenience and detriment to the cause and to the argument on the main question, if the debate should be drawn away from its real merits to one on particular expressions or arguments used by you, and on your fitness or unfitness for employment by government.

I am convinced that you will excuse the liberty which I take in writing you this letter, and that you will attribute it to its real motive.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY

To the Duke of Richmond.

[458.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 26th May, 1808.

I have received your letter of the 22nd. There is certainly an awkwardness between the persons who have a claim to the patronage of counties and those who have a claim to the patronage of towns within those counties. Those who have the representation of the counties have the best claim, as their trouble and expense are greatest, their general situation in the country is highest, and the support they give to government is most important; at the same time that the patrons and representatives of boroughs are not without their claims. The only mode of deciding is to take every case on its distinct ground, and accordingly I don't see any objection to giving Lord Donegal the office for which Lord Hertford asked; and I dare say that I shall be able to reconcile Lord Hertford to the disappointment.

We had the Catholic debate last night. Grattan made an excellent speech. The rest of the debate bad. One division upon the question of adjourning the debate a very good one, 298 to 118; that upon the main question, 281 to 128.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Duke of Richmond to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR ARTHUR,

31st May, 1808.

I am glad to hear you had a good majority on the Catholic question.

Would it not be possible, after Grattan's speech, to take the priests into government pay? I am aware of difficulties, but it would give us the command of the Catholics to a great degree in spite of Lord Granville or Mont. Mathew.

Yours véry sincerely,

RICHMOND.

To James Trail, Esq.

[459.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 30th May, 1808.

I have received your letter of the 27th instant, and I see no objection to incurring the expense proposed on the house of the Master of the Horse, if the Duke consent to it.

I think you are quite right respecting the proposed publication of the Précis of Irish History.

I rather believe that the clause in the Paving Act does not

enable the Paving Corporation to construct these well-sewers unless it should appear to be practicable, and I acknowledge that I am very desirous that it should not be done against the inclination of the citizens. Why should not Major Taylor* construct one in one of the new streets where there could be no objection to it, and show by experiment their beneficial effects and their efficiency? This plan would then have partisans instead of opposers, and government would be saved the trouble of cramming it down people's throats, which is the invariable consequence of every new plan in Ireland.

I will speak to Lord Hawkesbury respecting the answer to the Bank [of Ireland] about the King's statue.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[460.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 30th May, 1808.

I enclose some letters which I received yesterday from Sir Edward Littlehales relative to some soldiers who have been prevented from attending mass at Athy, in the county of Kildare. I dare say that the circumstances are much misrepresented and exaggerated, but I have thought it best to refer the letters for your consideration, as they relate to a subject of general policy.

As the law in Ireland allows no Roman Catholics to be soldiers, it is probable that some regular mode has been adopted of allowing them to attend at mass, and, if this be the case, it ought to be adhered to in this instance. If no such mode has been adopted, it would be advisable to frame some regulation upon the subject which may be applied to all cases in the militia as well as the regular service.

If you should approve of this notion, I will write to Ireland accordingly.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* Chief Commissioner of the Corporation for "Paving, lighting, and cleansing the streets of Dublin."

[The following Memorandum "on Troops attending Divine Service" was subsequently issued.]

MEMORANDUM ON TROOPS ATTENDING DIVINE SERVICE. [461.]

Dublin Castle, June, 1808.

If soldiers of the regulars have been allowed to attend divine service in Roman Catholic chapels, these words to be added, viz. :

If the soldier should have been prevented from attending divine service in the Roman Catholic chapel, his Grace requests that orders may be given that he may be allowed to go there according to the regulations of the service in similar cases.

If soldiers of the regular army have not been allowed to attend divine service in Roman Catholic chapels, these words to be added, viz. :

As a proportion of the soldiers of the army are of the Roman Catholic persuasion, and it is expedient that they should be allowed to attend divine service in the Roman Catholic chapels in Ireland, his Grace has directed me to suggest to you the expediency of giving directions in the General Orders of the army that those soldiers known to be Roman Catholics should be marched on every Sunday to the mass-house in such regular order as may be deemed proper in conformity with the practice of the service for those of the Protestant persuasion.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[462.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 4th June, 1808.

I am inclined to recommend to you that Croker's son (Richard Croker) should be appointed to succeed his father as Surveyor-General of Excise, that the father should be superannuated upon his salary, and that his home in the Custom House should be allotted to increase the accommodation for the public offices. My reason for recommending this arrangement is,—first, that I have reason to believe that Bagwell is not inclined to press the arrangement for the barrack-mastership of Clonmel, and that the other Croker is against the proposed removal from his office; secondly, if he is, the barrack-master Croker is a son of old Croker by a different wife, and is not the

brother of the Member, and of the proposed Surveyor-General, and therefore has no interest in the arrangement proposed for the benefit of the latter; but, thirdly, supposing the interest on his part to be greater than I imagine, the election at Downpatrick has been very expensive to the old man and the Member; and it is impossible to describe to you the interest which the latter has created in the House, and the desire which has been expressed by many people that government should adopt some measures to reimburse this expense to the family.

The government have lately been talking to me about taking the command of the corps destined for Spain, which is to be assembled at Cork; but nothing is yet settled about it. I am convinced that I need make no apology to you for taking it, for if you were in my situation you would do the same; nor need I say much to produce a conviction upon your mind that if this service should separate me from you, it will be a source of the greatest regret to me. Till this is certain, it is useless to say more upon the subject; but I cannot inform you even of the chance that it may happen without expressing to you how sensible I am of all your kindness and confidence in me, and how happy I should have been to have continued to assist you in the performance of the arduous duties which you have undertaken. The ministers are not yet quite agreed about sending me, and I think that they are rather inclined to keep me.

Don't mention this subject, as I don't write it to Lady W. till it will be positively determined.

Ever, my dear Duke, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I enclose Mr. Rennie's Report on Howth Harbour,

The Duke of Richmond to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR ARTHUR,

Phoenix Park, 8th June, 1808.

I think you quite right in accepting the offer of the command of the expedition if it be offered; and, for the sake of the expedition, it is right it should be given to you; but I much doubt if Ireland is not of more consequence than the expedition, and I am certain you are of much consequence to it.

If you could return, so as to attend Parliament, I hope you would retain your office; but if you are wanted for a more considerable time, of course the office must be filled up.

You know I shall be particularly sorry to lose you, and I must say I

think a change in your office is very troublesome. No man that has had a civil refusal from you will hesitate in making that a positive promise when you are out of the way. I wish you fully to understand that I am on every account anxious you should remain Secretary, and that I shall think nothing of additional trouble to ensure it; but supposing it is found necessary to fill up your situation, I trust government will be careful who they appoint. I don't recollect one fit for it who would take it. C. Long will not. R. Dundas is in a higher situation, or, at least, in one that leads to higher; and at this moment I cannot think of a proper person. Bourne has been talked of. What little I know of him I like, but I hear he is a timid politician; if so, I had rather have no Secretary.

I return Captain Morris's recommendations. I have noted them. Your answer was quite right. I send a letter from Lord Tyrawly. In addition he wants his son to succeed to the Linen Board. I have written lately about Butler's living, 150*l*. I still think Foster should be satisfied with what I intended about Dr. Keatinge. Rowley asked for the deanery I intended for Keatinge. He has claims, but I think Keatinge's stronger. I own I think Saurin's very great. He prefers, I think I told you, Donoughmore to Crossakeel. This will enable me to do a civil thing to De Lacy. It is in fact only agreeing to a change. I see no objection to Croker's retiring and his son succeeding; the house to be made into offices. I will give directions about it. Bagwell does not, you say, press; so the other Croker may, for the present, stay at Clonmel.

Dr. Jackson is anxious something similar to what is supposed to be going on in England should in Ireland as to mad-houses. I believe it to be highly necessary. I think I sent you his paper on it: if not, I will.

I send a letter from the Chancellor as to Sir C. Vernon. What can be done? Wynne has 400*l*. a year, and the charge of an establishment of about from 20,000*l*. to 30,000*l*. He is underpaid. The Controller has a little more than 300*l*. I believe too that Bruce is underpaid. I send you a letter which has come to the Bishop of Cork, evidently not intended. I presume the English government will look after Mr. Osborne. Is it possible to stop Dr. Duigenan's letter? I have it, and have not notified it in any way to him.

Yours most sincerely,

RICHMOND.

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

[463.]

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 5th June, 1808.

In considering the case of the contractors for forage for the cavalry, it is necessary to go farther than an inquiry into the ordinary and average price of Dublin market; for it is obvious, first, that as the great prices of the current year were foreseen at a very early period, the contractors either did or ought to have provided for it by early purchases; and, secondly, that the average market price of Dublin is much higher than that of the

country very much within reach, and that it is probable that the contractors have or ought to have supplied themselves from these counties. The question would be considered in this manner in strictness, and I don't know whether that is not the just and fair mode of considering every question arising out of a contract.

Upon this principle, then, if Messrs. Frazer and Medlicott cannot continue to supply the forage at the rates agreed upon, they ought to be obliged to pay the penalty ; but on the other hand, if they should continue to supply it upon these terms, I see no objection to giving Colonel Banfield an authority to advance them 2000*l.* upon the security proposed, in order to enable them to overcome the difficulties which oppose the fulfilment of their engagements at the present moment.

I enclose a letter from Lord Shannon respecting Lord Riversdale's appointment to be Governor of the county of Cork, which, as you will observe, may be restricted to the period during which he will be Colonel of the militia.

Captain Hill's proposal for a signal station upon Cromie Head must be taken into consideration with the general subject.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[464.]

MEMORANDUM ON THE YEOMANRY.

5th June, 1808.

The yeomanry to be increased :

First, by taking on the regular establishment such of the supplementary yeomanry as are well composed, are tolerably complete, and those to whom it would be an object.

Secondly, to accept the offers of those who have offered to augment ; provided that they are good people, that their corps as already established are good corps, and that they will answer for the loyalty and good conduct of the augmented members.

Thirdly, to accept the services of those who have offered or may offer, they being known to be decidedly good and loyal subjects, who will engage to attend to their corps, and who may be deemed likely to collect good people.

All supplementary corps taken on the regular establishment, all augmented corps, and all new corps added to the establish-

ment, must engage to exercise with some other already established corps, according to the plan of April, 1808.

The augmentation to be of infantry or artillery. The infantry to be armed to 60,000 effective rank and file.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[465.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 6th June, 1808.

If what Grattan and Ponsonby declared respecting the disposition of the Roman Catholic bishops in Ireland be true, which I have reason to believe it is, there can be no objection to giving stipends to the Roman Catholic clergy, excepting the general objection to stirring the question at all during the King's life, and those which might be stated, and are felt by Perceval and some of the *red-hot* Protestants, to making any concession whatever, as it only creates fresh demands and fresh dangers to the Church.

I am convinced that unless the ministers draw better together, particularly on the subject of Ireland, than they have done in this session, they will not only be unable to hold their offices, but they will entirely ruin the King's affairs. I will tell you more upon this subject when we meet. In my opinion there are faults on both sides; but the great fault of all is a want of concert in private, and of apparent co-operation in public. They are losing the confidence of the House of Commons very fast, and are not nearly so strong now as they were at the commencement of the session. Maynooth College, Duigenan, and the Bank would have been nonsense if the ministers had acted wisely and together.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Duke of Richmond to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR ARTHUR,

Phœnix Park, 2nd June, 1808.

I am sorry to find that some of the ministers disapprove both of our proceedings as to Maynooth and Dr. Duigenan's appointment. I have written to Canning about it, and have told him my opinion as to the danger of Maynooth unless government had the control of it. Indeed had government not come in with a determination to leave the Catholics as they were, I should have doubted if it were not better to get rid of the establishment.

If we can alter the Charter and get the control, it would be a useful institution. That, and paying the priests, would be of great utility. Witness the Presbyterians.

Yours sincerely,
RICHMOND.

[466.]

To Lord Castlereagh.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 8th June, 1808.

I enclose some papers received yesterday respecting the barrack at Strabane. You are aware of the situation in which the Irish government stand in relation to the military department; and I am very apprehensive that if after we desired them to fix upon a proper station at Strabane (and Strabane only), they having proposed Lifford or Strabane for a barrack, and they have chosen in several reports to condemn the situation of Strabane, and to recommend Lifford, and that the ground at Strabane is dear and that at Lifford cheap, Lord Abercorn and government will be in a disagreeable scrape if we should persevere in our determination to fix the barrack at Strabane. You are aware of the mode in which his reputation and that of the government would be attacked upon this occasion, and I wish that you would talk over the subject with Lord Abercorn.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[467.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 8th June, 1808.

I have received your letter of the 4th.

In respect to Maynooth College, it is governed by an Act of Parliament and by bye-laws. The Visitors are named in the Act of Parliament, which provides for the election of the successors to those of them who are Roman Catholics; and the only mode by which government can control the institution, or can know that it is conducted according to the regulations of the Act of Parliament or of the bye-laws, is by the Visitors. Now it was proved in a late instance that the control of the Visitors is absolutely nothing; it is defeated by the system and principle of the Roman Catholic religion as it prevails in

Ireland ; and no new regulation which could be devised, and become the subject of parliamentary discussion and legislation, would answer the purpose of overcoming the secret operations of the power of the Roman Catholic religion in Ireland.

In my opinion the Trustees of Maynooth College,* some of whom are Visitors with the great law officers of the Crown, are the head, and may, if they choose, and when they choose, guide the power of the Roman Catholic religion in Ireland, which daily experience teaches is an *imperium in imperio* ; and I say that the institution which has placed such power in the hands of some of the King's subjects, which power no law can control, is one not to be encouraged.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[468.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 10th June, 1808.

I have received your letters of the 4th, 6th, and 7th. I am glad to find that Mr. ——— is arrived in Ireland ; and I hope now that it will be found that it is more convenient to have him in that country than in Scotland. I am convinced, and so is the Lord Advocate, that we should not have been able to make anything of a suit against him in the courts of Scotland.

I think that you have done quite right in restoring to Duggan the amount of his losses.

The difference of opinion between Mr. Waller and General ——— affords a curious specimen of the difficulties of managing the persons who must necessarily be invested with authority in Ireland, and of the extent of party animosity in that country, and of the effect it has upon the opinions of those among whom it prevails. It is my opinion, however, that government could not do otherwise than place the Kerry yeomanry on permanent duty, notwithstanding that it is very obvious that we shall lose the services of General ——— from this time forward. I have long observed that his temper was not the sweetest in the world ; and I hope that we shall not find that he is a great loss to us.

* The Trustees of the Royal College of St. Patrick, Maynooth, in 1808-9, consisted of Lords Fingall, Kenmare, Gormanstown, and French ; Sir E. Bellew, Richard Strange, Esq. ; two archbishops, and seven bishops of the Roman Catholic church.

It would be very right to reward the mayor of Callan as you propose.

I have desired that the Fees of Assizes Bill may be sent to the judges in Ireland, by which measure it will be delayed for so great a length of time that it will not pass in this session.

If the riots in Leitrim still continue, I think you will do well to send down Major Swan, at least till Mr. Palmer will be at liberty to go there.

I have no doubt that you will be obliged to place on permanent duty the yeomanry of the baronies in the north of Kerry, as soon as the troops stationed in those baronies will move to camp. But I recommend that the opinion of the General officer commanding in the district should be consulted upon this subject.

By the bye, if the Lord-Lieutenant should think it proper to enter into any explanation with General ——— in respect to the yeomanry of Kerry, the movement of the troops to camp might be referred to as a sufficient cause for that arrangement.

Lord Glandore applied to me some time ago that the company stationed at Ardfert might be removed from thence. I wish that inquiry were made from the General officer commanding in Kerry, whether it is necessary to keep it there; and if it be not, that it might be removed to some other station.

I enclose a letter which I have received from the Horse Guards respecting Captain Jones Crawford, the sheriff of Tyrone. I imagine that it is impossible to relieve him from that duty, and that I must return an answer accordingly to Colonel Gordon. The fact is, that he does not wish to join his regiment, and alleges his official duty as an excuse for staying away.

I enclose a memorandum and other papers accompanying it, which I have lately submitted to the Cabinet, respecting the extension of Inland Navigation in Ireland. I beg you to submit these papers to the Lord Lieutenant, and prepare a despatch to the Secretary of State for his signature, according to the purport proposed at the close of the memorandum.

I wrote to the Chancellor some time ago to request him to appoint Mr. Wyatt a magistrate of Tipperary and Kilkenny, at the request of Lord Ormond. He has appointed him for Kilkenny, but not for Tipperary, because, as he says, there are so many justices in Tipperary as to make it a mob magistracy.

That would be a good reason for striking off the improper persons whose names are in the commission; but I am afraid that Lord Ormond will not consider it a good one for refusing to place in it the name of a man who is entirely unexceptionable.

I enclose the Chancellor's letter, which refers to another subject which well deserves consideration; I mean the fixing the period for the assizes in Ireland.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I have spoken to Lord Hawkesbury respecting the answer to be given by the Lord-Lieutenant in regard to the address to the King from the clergy of Armagh; and he thinks that it will be best that he should return for answer to Lord Hawkesbury, that he cannot find out what ground the grand jury had for passing the resolution which they had published.

— — — — —, Esq., to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

SIR,

Dublin, 9th June, 1808.

I have much satisfaction in telling you that Mr. —, now in custody for 23,600*l.*, feels his error, and curses his fate, that he had not confided in me before he took the rash and disgraceful step, he did. How different these feelings might be were he not in the hands of the law, is another affair. But, at present, everything is as it should be. His law-agent is my particular friend, and he confides in us at last, because all attempts of a disgraceful nature are at an end. He is now willing to enter into a fair settlement of account, and to pay government what balance he may owe; which I think myself, from the blundering system of revenue resorted to, may reduce his debt about 5000*l.* To pay the difference he is prepared, and of course you rescue for the Crown 18,000*l.*

His mode of accomplishing this is obvious to me: 7000*l.* he left in Cork; 8000*l.* more, which is settled on his estate, I can easily show you in one minute can be recovered; and his estate is worth 1500*l.* a year, unincumbered, as I can also show, although our lawyers think the contrary. I mean so far as this 8000*l.* He has written for bail to Cork to the friend there who solely advised his flight. This gentleman you shall also know, and he alone would be good security for 100,000*l.*

For myself, the able and delicate manner you were pleased to have everything relative to this business conducted leaves no shade of suspicion on me. I have performed my promise to you, in whom I confided, and whom I selected for the purpose, which, by the way, has caused me no small jealousy at the Excise Board, as they think I knew all his transactions, but who ought (one of) themselves be severely dealt by, in affording the oppor-

tunity he did of Mr. ——'s escape, &c. I have betrayed no trust of friendship; I was only instrumental in detecting a fraud and a species of conduct my heart and soul revolted against. We continue good friends, and I constantly see him, of course; and, I think, between his law-agent, who is a gentleman of high character in his profession, and those feelings which now govern him, a triumph is obtained over shabby and disgraceful subterfuge and trick. Be assured, Sir, you may upon this occasion, and for the remainder of my life, when necessary, confide in me. For what has passed I impute no blame to government or to the Commissioners of Inquiry. The one acted upon the report and examination of the other, who were imposed upon by the malice and falsehood of an acknowledged perjurer. And as to reinstatement to the office I lost, I beg to be understood as never wishing for it, leaving every matter exclusively to your own consideration, feeling, as I trust you will be pleased to do, for a fallen loyalist, having incurred the hatred of rebels from the hour I opposed at the aggregate meeting in 1796 those who moved to petition the King to turn from his councils Mr. Pitt to the period of our Orange Societies to counteract United Irishmen.

Enemies, no doubt, I have, through whose means I may have been maligned and misrepresented, but those are rebels and smugglers; to both of whom I have ever been a scourge, which I could easily prove from high authorities if necessary.

Be pleased to pardon this intrusion. I have merely done it to satisfy you that in my first interview I was prompted by no inconsiderable feelings, and that you may be readily convinced of the reasons which actuated me, to choose for the object of my confidence a person of such high honour, manly spirit, and constitutional principles as him I did; at the same time proving to you that my character is substantially freed from any idea that in rendering government a service I should be supposed in your eyes to be guilty of betraying the confidence of a friend.

I have the honour to be, Sir, with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient humble servant,

The Duke of Richmond to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

DEAR ARTHUR,

Phoenix Park, 11th June, 1808.

I am anxious to know if you can settle with Foster, so as to let me appoint Mr. Saurin. I really think we ought to comply with the Attorney's wishes.

Your answer to Lord Kingston about the Rev. Mr. Hamilton was quite right. I have no report yet from the Excise Board.

You know that Admiral Berkeley is not well pleased with Ministers. I think a small favour of their asking would have much weight. He wants his son, now Major in the 35th, to purchase a Lieutenant-Colonelcy which has been offered him in the East Indies. I understand General Grenville, a great friend of the Duke of York's, says that as George Berkeley has not been much more than the six years in the service, the Duke will refuse it unless government ask it. It would be well to mention this to some of them, as they might please a county member at a cheap rate.

We hear you are coming immediately, that you are going to Spain, and that you are going to South America. I trust you are not going far enough to take you from your Irish situation. O'Hara used to say he had rather have a wife recommended to him than an aide-de-camp. Notwithstanding this, I will venture to say that FitzRoy Somerset is an active and intelligent fellow, and is anxious to go on service.

Yours, dear Arthur, very sincerely,

RICHMOND.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[469.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 14th June, 1808.

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 8th,* which I received yesterday. I have as yet heard nothing of my successor; and from what the Ministers have said to me, I think that they are anxious that I should return, if possible, to my office, and will keep it vacant for me if it should be possible, and should not be inconvenient to your government.

The consideration of the houses for the reception of lunatics in Ireland must be deferred to another session of Parliament.

I got the Police Bill through the Committee on Friday; and I now hope there will be no more opposition to it.

All the state officers and the officers of the Lord-Lieutenant's household are upon the Civil List, I believe; and I will speak to Lord Hawkesbury respecting an increase of their salaries, which can easily be made by an application for a King's letter. I also think that something ought to be done, and will speak to Lord Hawkesbury, respecting your own salary, which is shamefully burthened by expenses that ought to fall upon the public, and not upon the Lord-Lieutenant.

I will show Lord Hawkesbury the letter to the Bishop of Cork.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[470.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 14th June, 1808.

Some time ago something was said in the House of Commons respecting the state of the prisons in Ireland; and I had read

* See p. 444,

the reports of the Inspector-General upon them, with a view to acquire a knowledge of their state. Since that, his last report has been printed, which I have perused, and I wish much to draw the Lord-Lieutenant's attention to it; and I suggest some measures for his consideration, with a view to remedy some of the existing evils. I believe that the gaols in Ireland are under the grand juries exclusively; but it appears to me that the Lord-Lieutenant can, in a very useful way, draw the attention of these bodies to their state; and if he do no good, at least he will show the good intention of government, and the necessity of some reform in the mode of managing the concern. I should therefore propose that, at an early period, a letter should be written to each of the sheriffs of the counties respecting whose gaols a report has been made, which said reports I have marked with a pencil, and desire the sheriffs to lay the Lord-Lieutenant's letter and the report before the grand jury at the next summer assizes. The sheriff might be informed of the great interest which the public attached to the due care of the prisoners confined in the gaols; that there ought to be places for the security of their persons; and that their confinement should not be a punishment, or the cause of their suffering any of those evils which the report represented. The sheriff might then be directed to draw the attention of the grand jury to the particular grievances which the report states, and to urge them to provide a remedy, and to adopt measures that, upon the next inspection of the Inspector-General, the gaol should be found in a proper state.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[471.]

To the Duke of Portland.

MY LORD,

Holyhead, 19th June, 1808.

Before I left London I had another opportunity of communicating with the person respecting whom I spoke to your Grace in the last interview I had with you, and I informed him of the extent of expense beyond which your Grace had determined not to go, viz., 5000*l.* at present, and not more than 20,000*l.* within the year, which appears to have been the amount agreed upon by Mr. Pitt upon the last occasion on which he had intended

to employ this same person. After making some difficulties, protesting against the risk of entire failure from the inadequacy of the means employed, and taking time to consider of the proposition which I had made to him, he agreed to undertake the service upon the terms proposed, hoping that if he should be able to perform what he proposed, the means allotted to him would be increased. If your Grace will be so kind as to send to Mr. Flint, he will find this gentleman, and will conclude for you anything that you may wish to arrange with him.

I acknowledge that I am not very sanguine in my expectations that this gentleman will be able, as he proposes, to create any serious uneasiness to Bonaparte, which would draw more of his attention to France, and divert the employment of his force from the subjugation of foreign countries; but I have seen proofs that this gentleman, while making his former efforts to produce this same effect, did acquire and communicate to government some very important intelligence, the knowledge of which was worth all the expense incurred in the employment of him. From what I have seen, I am convinced that the present government would derive the greatest advantages from the acquisition of early information upon the same subjects and of the same description; and indeed it appears more necessary to adopt measures of this kind to acquire it at present, as all the ordinary channels of communication with the Continent are entirely closed.

I must observe to your Grace, however, that, although I recommend the employment of this gentleman and his associates solely with a view to acquire information, he is very unwilling to be employed for this purpose or to be so considered, notwithstanding that he is willing to convey to government all the intelligence which his measures adopted with other views and for other purposes may enable him to obtain.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Grace's most faithful and obedient

humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[472.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Holyhead, 19th June, 1808.

I omitted to mention to you before I left London a wish of the Duke of Richmond's to raise the salaries of the officers of the Lord-Lieutenant's household, which are now fixed on so low a scale as to make it difficult for him to prevail upon gentlemen to come from England to hold the offices; and this difficulty is increased by the impossibility which exists of making any other or permanent provision for those who may be prevailed upon to attend a Lord-Lieutenant to Ireland.

These offices are all paid from the Civil List, upon which there is at present a saving; but the surplus of the Civil List belongs to the King, and indeed I must add that a great part of it at least is appropriated to the payment of secret pensions and other charges arising out of the Rebellion and the Union.

The offices in the Lord-Lieutenant's household, the salaries of which ought to be raised, are the steward, the comptroller, the master of the horse, the gentleman usher, and the chamberlain: they have now only 300*l.* Irish, liable to deductions; and what I should propose would be to make them all 500*l.*, if the Civil List will bear such an increase. This will be done by the usual application for a King's letter to authorise the increase.

I shall be obliged to you if you will let me know your opinion upon this subject as soon as may be convenient to you.

There is also another subject connected with this which I have long intended to mention to you; but it is one of greater magnitude, and will require more consideration and consultation with others than you would probably think it necessary to give to the first: it is the situation of the Lord-Lieutenant himself. His salary is 20,000*l.* a-year Irish, liable to the Treasury deductions; but, besides, he has expenses which ought properly to be borne by the public, and which amount to no less than 4000*l.* per annum. These are principally for fire and candlelight for the whole Castle (excepting myself). I should propose for his relief in this respect to throw the fire and candlelight for all those parts of the Castle paid for but not occupied by the Lord-Lieutenant himself upon the Board of Works, where it ought to

be ; and by this arrangement he would be relieved from a very large part of the expense.

I believe the fact to be that the Lord-Lieutenant's salary is by no means sufficient for the expense of his situation. He must keep an immense establishment ; and I really believe that the Duke of Richmond has injured his circumstances rather than improved them by his government. I will send you an exact detail upon this subject when I shall go to Dublin ; but in the mean time I have thought it right to take this opportunity of drawing your attention to it.

The accounts from Cadiz are very extraordinary. I think the whole question depends upon whether the Junta of Andalusia had been assembled. If they had, and had submitted to the French government, the game appears to be over.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Lord Hawkesbury to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR WELLESLEY,

London, 24th June, 1808.

I have just received your letter on the subject of Lord ———'s pension, and am perfectly satisfied with the proposed arrangement of the Duke to give him 200*l.* per annum this year, and 200*l.* in the next. Indeed I think it a very prudent and advisable plan to keep 100*l.* to meet unforeseen contingencies. I have no doubt that all you say respecting the Lord-Lieutenant's establishment is correct, but you must consider the difficulties of making augmentations at a moment like the present. The Lord-Lieutenant's appointment, I am satisfied, cannot cover his expenses ; but that is equally the case with all the State offices in this country. A Secretary of State, I know from experience, cannot live for less than double the amount of his salary. I do not mention these circumstances with any view of precluding the consideration of the Lord-Lieutenant's situation, but to show you the difficulties which at this time must attend any new arrangement.

We have nothing material from Spain, or any other quarter. A lugger is arrived at Guernsey, which left Gijon on the 7th of June, seven days later than the two convoys, and at that time the disposition of the people and the aspect of affairs were very favourable.

Believe me to be, my dear Wellesley,

Very sincerely yours,

HAWKESBURY.

[473.]

To Lord Castlereagh.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 22nd June, 1808.

The enclosed papers will show you the success with which the measures have been carried into execution which I proposed for prevailing upon the yeomanry companies to exercise together, and act in battalions throughout Ireland, and those which I proposed for ascertaining the number of men who could march out of their counties in the event of invasion or rebellion. I have now proposed that the battalions in each county should be numbered; and hereafter a power may be given to the Lord-Lieutenant to name officers to command them when exigency may require such an arrangement.

I wish you would let me know as soon as you can to what extent you would wish to carry the yeomanry force of this country. We have now from 40,000 to 50,000 effectives, which we could with ease make 60,000 effectives; but I doubt whether our force ought to go beyond that number.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[474.]

MEMORANDUMS FOR SIR EDWARD B. LITTLEHALES.

[To be submitted to his Grace's consideration.]

23rd June, 1808.

A circular letter to be written to the Brigade-Majors, expressing the Lord-Lieutenant's approbation of the zeal of the yeomanry, manifested in their consent to exercise together in battalion, and to draw their attention to the orders of the * respecting the inspections and periods of exercise ordered for the battalions.

That in order to render the arrangement permanent, to avoid all confusion in the event of the existence of a necessity for calling for the services of the yeomanry in battalion, the battalions to be numbered and called: First Armagh Battalion; those from the north are to be called the 1st, and so on to the south of each county.

It is to be understood that the arrangement of the yeomanry

* Blank in manuscript.

in companies as fixed in the original establishment is not intended to be altered in the least.

A report to be made, in detail, of the companies which have volunteered to serve together in battalion.

As soon as all the reports will have come in from the yeomanry, a despatch to be sent to the Secretary of State respecting the nature of this arrangement in both its parts, as intended for war, or for the ordinary purposes of exercise; how far it has answered, and how it is to be improved, and how it can be further improved by an Act enabling the Lord-Lieutenant to have officers of the line or otherwise upon emergency to command detachments of yeomanry.

[Enclosed in the foregoing.]

The whole subject of yeomanry appears to have been well considered at first: the officers of inspection are nearly sufficient, and the control of government over it is active and efficient.

According to the existing system the captains of yeomanry are middling gentry or agents to absentee landlords, and all resident, who for their own sakes take care that their corps shall be well composed; and whatever is the general state of the yeomanry, government must have a knowledge of it, and, in point of fact, notice is taken in detail of everything that appears to be incorrect or incomplete in the returns and reports which come in every month.

I agree in thinking that it would be very convenient if a part of the local force of Ireland could be formed into battalions; and accordingly, in the fortnight's exercise ordered for this year, the brigade-majors have been directed to assemble the corps together as much as possible. If three or four companies should exercise together, they will answer as well as if they had exercised in a body, and probably better; and they will not be disinclined to act together as a battalion when their services will be called for. But this does not secure our object; we ought to have our battalions formed, with officers prepared to command them, to produce in the field when the enemy would land; and the desideratum would be to organise our companies

into battalions for general exercise and service, at the same time that we should keep them distinct for the purpose of control by government, and to secure in the captains an interest in the principles and conduct of their men and responsibility to government.

The mode in which I would effect this purpose would be to point out in a circular letter the advantages which would result to the yeomanry in general by their agreeing amongst themselves that in case they should be called out certain neighbouring companies should act together in battalion, and that those who should thus agree should occasionally assemble for battalion exercise, and should invariably exercise and act together when placed on permanent duty; that when assembled in this manner the command should be in the senior officer present, unless the Lord-Lieutenant should appoint a commanding officer, for which purpose he should be empowered by an alteration in the Act of Parliament. If the yeomanry should not agree to this arrangement very generally, which I am very confident they would, as they will to every arrangement which is proposed to them in the spirit of their institution, we must only fix for ourselves beforehand those corps which shall act together in battalion when the enemy will land, and who shall command these battalions and force obedience to our orders when they shall be under the Mutiny Act.

I object to the plan of six weeks' exercise in the year. I prefer by far the weekly exercise for the Irish volunteers, and a fortnight's permanent duty for discipline when it can be afforded. They will not probably be such highly disciplined soldiers as they would after six weeks' exercise; but their arms, accoutrements, and clothing will always be in order; they will appear clean and sober, and will receive the King's money once a-week, and will become better men and more loyal subjects by the existing mode.

There is one other improvement which I would suggest to our present institution, with a view to ensure more regular attendance and better discipline. It is obvious that we must procure and shall now most probably be able to enforce the ballot in Ireland for the regular militia, and I would recommend that the yeomen who should not attend in one year thirty-eight days' exercise, including nine monthly inspections, and two-thirds of the time of permanent duty, unless absent on account

of sickness, should not be exempt from the ballots for the militia and army in the following year.

[N.B. This latter document is endorsed "Extract from a Private Memorandum relative to the Yeomanry Institution in Ireland, and the Improvement of the Yeomanry Force."]

To Lieut.-General Sir John F. Cradock, K.B.

[475.]

MY DEAR CRADOCK,

Dublin Castle, 22nd June, 1808.

I am very sorry that I did not see you before I left London, for I wanted much to speak to you upon different subjects, and particularly about yourself; but I was prevented by my business. Borough* told me that you had resigned the Irish staff, although you had contrived to do so in a manner not likely to give offence. I was much concerned to hear that you had taken that step, more particularly without consulting your friend Lord Buckinghamshire, for I am convinced that there is nothing so untrue as the saying, "that every man knows his own affairs best," and that a man whose mind is soured by any ill treatment is peculiarly disqualified to decide for himself. However, you have taken the step; and now the next object for your endeavours should be to be placed on the staff, or in the command of some corps employed on foreign service.

Pray remember me most kindly to Lady Theodosia and Johnny, and

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. W. Sturges Bourne.

[476.]

DEAR BOURNE,

Dublin Castle, 23rd June, 1808.

I spoke to Colonel Gordon respecting Mr. Blachford, and he said that he did not think that the Duke of York would have any objection to his going with me, and he did not think there was any necessity for my mentioning the subject to His Royal Highness.

My opinion is that the best thing for Mr. Blachford to do would be to come with me as a traveller; I will take care of him, and that he shall have his dinner and forage for his horse, and shall

* Firm of Armit and Borough, Army Agents, Dublin.

see everything that is to be seen; and he can then return to England when he will be tired of us. If he should take a commission in the army, he would be obliged to stay longer than is now his intention, or than would suit his other views and objects, supposing that we should be detained, and not very actively employed. If upon trial he should like the life of a soldier, there will be no difficulty in giving him a commission when he shall be abroad.

According to this plan, the best thing Mr. Blachford can do is to join me in Ireland as soon as he can.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY,

[477.]

*To John Beckett, Esq.**

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 26th June, 1808.

I sent to Spain some time ago a man by the name of ———, with a view to pick up what he could find out, and he was to write to me. This was done previous to the late revolution in Spain.

He was to direct to ———, Post-office, London; and I beg you to take all letters under that address. The cypher in which he will write is enclosed. The first side is a letter in cypher, of which the second side is the key.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[478.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 28th June, 1808.

I am afraid that I did not explain myself to you sufficiently in the letter which I wrote to you from Holyhead respecting the situation of certain officers of the Lord-Lieutenant's household. They are all paid from the Civil List; and as there is a saving upon the Civil List establishment, the additions proposed to their salaries, which I find on the whole need not exceed 500*l.* per annum, will not be an additional expense

*-Under-Secretary of State, Home Department.

to the public, but will come out of the pocket of the King. Shall this arrangement be proposed officially?

The arrangement in respect to the Lord-Lieutenant himself is a different consideration. I agree with you in thinking that this ought to be postponed for the present. I must at the same time tell you that I had mentioned the subject to the Duke of Richmond before I wrote to you, although I had received a communication of his wishes respecting an increase to be made to the salaries of the officers of his household.

I enclose an account of an outrage which has been committed at Ardce, in the county of Louth.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Castlereagh.

[479.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 28th June, 1808.

Lord Abercorn's wishes respecting Strabane have given me very great concern. When the Duke of Richmond came to Ireland, he gave directions that ground might be bought at Strabane for a barrack (and not at Lifford) in consequence of Lord Abercorn's wish, as communicated by you. Notwithstanding this order, every officer who has gone to Strabane, either to look at ground or to bargain for the purchase, whether for the barracks or for exercise, has reported that Lifford was the preferable station. I had, however, persevered to the last, and an officer had been sent by the Commander of the Forces to look at some exercising ground in the neighbourhood of Strabane, when he made the report which I sent to you when I was in London, in which he again, although specially directed to look at ground for the purposes of exercise at Strabane, made a report in favour of Lifford. In consequence of this report I recommended to Lord Hamilton to give up the point, as I am convinced that the result of the preference of Strabane to Lifford, under the present circumstances, will be, that the whole transaction will become the subject of public discussion. In consequence of what passed between Lord Hamilton and me, it appears that he has had some communication with Lord Abercorn, and I enclose the letters of the latter, from which you will observe that he is still much dissatisfied; but it also appears that the ground which was to have been bought at

Strabane does not belong to his family, and therefore, whatever may be the nature of the discussion which may take place, no disgrace will fall upon him, however large the share of it which government will have.

Since I came to Ireland I have had some conversation with Lord Harrington upon this subject. He appeared to think that, after the reports which had been received, he could not recommend that the barrack should be built at Strabane; and if he does not recommend it, I believe you are sufficiently aware of the nature of the relation in which the military stand to the civil government of this country to know that the Lord-Lieutenant cannot order that against which the military officers have reported, and the Commander-in-Chief will not recommend. So the case stands at present; the consideration of the building of the barrack in that part of the North of Ireland is deferred; and the result of this discussion will be, either that no barrack will be built, or that if one be built, it will be placed in a situation at a distance both from Lifford and Strabane.

This question has really given me more concern than any that has occurred since I came to Ireland; and I declare that the government and the Commander of the Forces have done everything in their power to place the barrack in the situation preferred by Lord Abercorn.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[480.]

To Lord Castlereagh.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 30th June, 1808.

In answer to your letter of the 26th, I have to inform you that I have already set the militia recruiting. We are of opinion here that it is not necessary to increase the bounty in the manner you propose in order to insure greater success in obtaining recruits. The guinea allowed by Act of Parliament will, it is imagined, cover all expenses, and sufficiently encourage the exertions of the officers employed on the recruiting service; and if this be the case, it would not be wise to increase the sum.

In respect to the general recruiting, I will try what I can do

before I go away ; it is in Anstruther's hands, who, we may be sure, will make the best arrangements to insure its success.

I will also set everything in motion to bring the yeomanry to 60,000 effectives, which will be an establishment of not far from 80,000 men.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[481.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 4th July, 1808.

I have received Lord Castlereagh's instructions, and I set out for Cork in the morning ; and I hope that we shall have sailed before you will receive this letter.

I have arranged everything with which you charged me before I left town :—Dublin police ; organisation of yeomanry completed, upon which subject you will receive a despatch in a few days ; arrangement of naval coast defence (upon this subject a despatch is gone to you, and it is of real importance, as I suspect one of the objects of ——— *alias* ———'s mission to France is to induce the French government to send an army to Ireland, and to point out the places at which they could be conveniently landed) ; telegraphic and coast signals, upon which subject a despatch will go to you.

The situation of the gaols of Dublin and of the different counties have been put in a train of inquiry ; and a commission will be appointed to inquire into the nature of the different public establishments receiving parliamentary grants, and to report how far they have answered the purposes for which they were established. These two last have arisen out of the discussions in parliament in the last session. Besides these objects, which will at all events show that we have not been idle, I have reason to hope that the Board of Education will enable the government to bring forward something upon that subject in the next session of parliament. I think also that it may be possible to adopt some measures to relieve the occupiers of the soil from the great and increasing burthen of the grand jury assessments. Inquiries will be made for government upon this subject.

I have desired Mr. Wyatt to attend your Lordship in London, where he may be useful to you till some arrangement

will be determined upon in respect to this government. He has served me with diligence and fidelity; and in proportion to the confidence which the government have placed in me, he has necessarily been made acquainted with their views, particularly in respect to this country. If the patronage of the government of Ireland had been what it was formerly, he would certainly have been permanently provided for before now, as most of his predecessors have been; but as it is, I must recommend him to your Lordship.

• Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The recruiting for the militia is going on; and the government will be prepared to supply, and I hope will supply, the whole number of their volunteers in September; and the yeomanry will be augmented to the effective number of 60,000.

[The Military Correspondence of Major-General Sir Arthur Wellesley between 4th July and 8th October, 1808, is given in the 3rd Volume of the 2nd Edition, and in the 4th volume of the 1st Edition, of the 'Wellingtön Despatches.' Sir Arthur Wellesley embarked at Cork for Corunna 12th July, 1808, and returned to London on the 6th October of the same year.]

[482.]

To the Right Hon. the Lord Chief Justice.

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 5th July, 1808.

It appearing to the Lord-Lieutenant, from the Report of the Inspector-General on the State of Prisons in Ireland for the year 1807, that various abuses prevail therein, notwithstanding the wholesome provisions of the law for their prevention, I am commanded by his Grace to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the said Report, and to recommend the same to your serious attention, to request that you or your colleague, in your inquiries into the state of the several gaols on your circuit, will particularly examine into the abuses mentioned in this Report, and apply such remedies as the law authorises and the several cases may require, and that you will in a special manner exhort the grand juries to a diligent and faithful discharge of the

duties imposed on them by the Legislature respecting this important subject.

I am further commanded to request that your Lordship will have the goodness, as soon after the conclusion of your circuit as may be convenient, to report to his Grace the result of your several inquiries, and how far the regulations provided by law have been observed.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

P.S. I have also by his Grace's command called the attention of the sheriffs of the several counties to the subject of this letter.

[Like letters, same date, to all the Judges of Assize.]

To Brigadier-General Lee.

[483,]

SIR,

Cork, 7th July, 1808.

According to the desire which you expressed in the conversation which I had with you at Lord Harrington's on Wednesday, I proceed to give you my opinion on the nature and circumstances of the command which you are about to exercise in the county of Limerick. In the first place, I must point out to you that the situation of a General officer commanding in a district in Ireland is very much of the nature of a Deputy Governor of a county or a province: he becomes necessarily charged with the preservation of the peace of the district placed under his command; and the government must confide in his reports and opinions for the adoption of many measures relating solely to the civil administration of the country. From these circumstances it is obvious that it is the duty of every General officer to make himself acquainted with the local circumstances of his district, and with the characters of the different individuals residing within it, in order that he may decide for himself according to the best of his judgment and information, and that he may not be misled by others.

This duty will be still more obvious by a consideration of certain circumstances which exist in nearly all parts of Ireland. It frequently happens that disturbances exist only in a very small degree, and probably only partially, and that the civil power is fully adequate to get the better of them: at the same time, the desire to let a building to government for a barrack;

the desire to have troops in the county, either on account of the increased consumption which they occasion of the necessities of life, or because the increased security which they would give to that particular part of the country would occasion a general rise in the value and the rent of land, which probably at that moment might be out of lease; or, in some instances, the desire to have the yeomanry called out on permanent duty; occasions a representation that the disturbances are much more serious than the facts would warrant. Upon these occasions, letter after letter is written to the commanding officer and to government; the same fact is repeated through many different channels; and the result of an inquiry generally is, that the outrage complained of is by no means of the serious nature or of the extent which has been stated.

The obvious remedy for this evil, and that which is generally resorted to, is to call for informations on oath of the transactions which are complained of: but this remedy is not certain; for it frequently happens that the informations on oath are equally false with the original representations. The General officer, then, has no remedy excepting, by his acquaintance and communication with the magistrates and gentlemen of the county, to acquire a knowledge of characters, and to become acquainted with all the circumstances which occur.

It frequently happens that the people who do commit outrages and disturbances have some reason to complain; but, in my opinion, that is not a subject for the consideration of the General officer. He must aid in the preservation of the peace of the county, and in the support of the law; and he who breaks the law must be considered in the wrong, whatever may have been the nature of the provocation which he has received.

It is possible that grievances may exist in the county of Limerick; provisions may be too dear, or too high a rent may be demanded for land; and there may be no poor-laws, and the magistrates may not do their duty as they ought by the poor; but these circumstances afford no reason why the General officer should not give the military aid which he may have at his command to preserve the peace, to repress disturbance, and to bring those to justice who may have been guilty of a violation of the law.

In respect to the gentlemen of the county in which you are posted, I recommend you to attend particularly to the Lord

Chief Baron O'Grady. You will find him well informed of the transactions in the county of Limerick, and well acquainted with characters, and disposed to assist your judgment. I also recommend to your attention Mr. Dixon, the late High Sheriff of the county, and Colonel Vereker, the member for the city of Limerick. There may be, and certainly are, other gentlemen in the county of Limerick on whose information you can depend; but I have requested Mr. Trail, to whom I send this letter, to apprise you confidentially of the names of those whom you ought to consult.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[484.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

Cove, 9th July, 1808.

I have just received your letter of the 6th. I think that Lord Thomond ought to be a Privy Councillor, and that nobody could found any claim to the same honour on the grant of it to him.

It is very desirable to be able to do something for Mr. O'Meara, but it is impossible to make him agent of the police. Messrs. Gordon and Hamilton are the fittest persons to fill that office.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To James Trail, Esq.

[485.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Cove, 9th July, 1808.

I enclose the letter from Colonel Bagwell on the subject which I mentioned to you two days ago. It is strange that we cannot prevail upon people to send their memorials to the Commissioners without sending them through the officers of government. However, as these papers have come to me, they may as well be given to Lord Annesley, and an endeavour may be made to arrange the business of the permits at Clonmel in such a manner as will be most convenient to the merchants.

I have received your letter of the 7th, and am concerned that Mr. Foster did not at first apprise me of the difficulties which

would exist in making the provision I had proposed for Lady ———. However, those difficulties appear to be insurmountable, and she must do the best she can.

The Boards of Excise and Customs must be kept in order by the authority of government; and if they will not draw well together, I should recommend to the Lord-Lieutenant to dismiss the head of that Board which is the cause of the dispute. If it be necessary that certain articles should be stored under the charge of the Excise, there can be no difficulty in making over the storehouses and their keys to the Excise, as the storehouses belong to the King, and are not the property of either of the Boards. If there be a doubt whether the goods should be stored under the charge of the Customs or the Excise, the law-officers should solve that doubt, and the government should enforce their decision.

We must not allow Mr. ———'s plea of services to exempt from punishment for improper acts, if those acts should be of a serious nature.

I will pay attention to what you write respecting the Irishmen who are going to Lisbon.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[486.]

To James Trail, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Cove of Cork, 10th July, 1808.

I enclose a letter from Mr. West, of Sligo, upon the subject of Catherine Clarke. I don't know what further instructions can be given to this gentleman. I think, however, that it would be expedient to send to Sligo, previous to the assizes, one of the law-officers of the Crown to arrange the evidence on this prosecution.

I have received your letter of the 8th. Mr. Foster's applications for Mr. Macneil, Mr. M'Intaggart, and Mr. Macarthy, are before the Lord-Lieutenant. He wants an office of 400*l.* or 500*l.* a year in the police or elsewhere for Mr. Macneil, and I told him that he could not have one in the police, as Mr. Macneil did not belong to the corporation. He wants to have the office of surveyor of Drogheda for Mr. M'Intaggart, in the room of Mr. Jones, who is not yet removed; and he wants to

have Mr. Macarthy appointed barrister of police, who is not recommended by any of the law-officers.

Of course you should take your measures quietly for the elections as soon as you can, as they will be made by the city on the 24th of this month. You are mistaken, however, respecting Dixon, who is a sheriff's peer.

If it be true, as stated by Mr. Godfrey Massey, that the magistrate residing in the neighbourhood of the place where the murder was committed which he has mentioned to you, did not take any steps to discover the murderers, or even to hold an inquest on the body, the name of this magistrate ought to be reported to the Lord Chancellor, and the Lord-Lieutenant ought to recommend his Lordship to strike his name out of the commission of the peace of Limerick for neglect of his duty.

I acknowledge that I am a little afraid of the appointment of ——— to be a police-magistrate. He is a Wexford Orangeman. He suffered in some degree in the Rebellion, and his mind is much irritated against the people. However, the Lord-Lieutenant is the best judge, and there can be no public objection to ———'s character. But who of the list can be left out? I think that Lysaght at all events cannot.

The discussion which took place in Parliament on the Irish prisons shows how necessary it is that the Irish Secretary should be there. If I had been in the House, Sheridan's motion would not have been carried; and indeed I am astonished that Mr. Perceval, furnished with information as he was by me, should have allowed the motion to pass, or the speeches which were made to be unanswered. But there is an unaccountable disinclination on the part of all the public men in England to speak out upon Irish affairs, or to interfere with their personal authority in favour of those who are risking their characters if not their lives in the support of the King's authority and the English interests in Ireland. This commission will do no good, and may do much harm. You must have more than one. One commission could not do the business, and care must be taken in the selection of the persons to be the members of the commission who are to examine into the complaints of the traitors who were confined in Kilmainham in 1803 and 1804.

I have received a letter from Mr. Flint on a correspondence which he or rather I have had with the General Post-office respecting his power of franking. It appears to me that the

Solicitor of the Post-office has now placed the question on such grounds as that it will be impossible to do anything further in the business at present without altering the nature and constitution of Mr. Flint's office, and without incurring the risk of having some trouble in settling the power of franking for the Chief Secretary. I write to Mr. Flint accordingly; and I mention the subject to you in case he should bring it forward during my absence, on the ground that I intended, as I certainly did, that he should have the power of franking.

The wind is still contrary, and I am afraid that we shall be detained here for some time.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[487.]

To James Trail, Esq.

On board the *Donegal*, off Cork,
12th July, 1808.

MY DEAR SIR,

We have at last got out with a fair wind, and we have every prospect of a good passage. Be so kind as to send all letters which may come for me to London, directed to the care of Mr. Flint, at the Irish Office, who has my directions to forward them.

In case we should not meet again officially, I beg to take this opportunity of returning you my most sincere and grateful thanks for all the assistance which you have given me since I have been in office.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Be so kind as to forward the enclosed to Lord Castlereagh by express.

[ENCLOSURE.]

Names of Irish Members of Parliament Absent.

Mr. Brownlow	∴ ∴	Tom Pakenham can write to him.
Dr. Duigenan	∴ ∴	To be sent to by Sir C. Saxton.
Sir E. O'Brien	∴ ∴	I suppose his coming over depends on his brother getting a place.
Lord Bernard	∴ ∴	Lord Shannon to be applied to.
Sir James Stewart	∴ ∴	Tom Pakenham.
Hans Hamilton	∴ ∴	Coming.
Mr. Shaw	∴ ∴	Sir C. Saxton to speak to him.
Mr. Leslie Foster	∴ ∴	Ditto.
General Archdall	∴ ∴	I don't know what to suggest about him.

I omitted to write to you before I left Ireland respecting a claim made by Lord Longueville to recommend the Collector of Customs of Cork, vice Mr. Shaw, deceased, for which I think it probable that you will have heard from Lord Westmoreland. This is an office worth from 1500*l.* to 2000*l.* per annum at present, and which will be worth 1200*l.* per annum when the

reform will be made in the Customs: it is one the performance of the duties of which is important to the revenue, and it was much sought after when it was vacant.

Although Lord Longueville has long had the disposal of the patronage of Cork, he has never been allowed to nominate the person to be appointed to fill this office; and the specimen we had had of the person he had recommended to fill the office of Collector of Excise, which had also been lately vacant, did not afford any strong ground for hope that the person he would recommend to be Collector of Customs would be the most fit for his situation. Besides these reasons for not allowing him to recommend, we adverted to the fact that Lord Longueville had nominated persons to be appointed to no less than seventeen offices, one of which, that of the Collector of Excise, was worth 800*l.* per annum, and another 500*l.* per annum, since the Duke of Richmond had taken the government; and it did not occur to the Duke that he would have much reason to complain if the government appointed to the vacant office of Collector of Customs the person most fit to fill it. I think that these circumstances will satisfy you that Lord Longueville has not been very ill used in this instance.

I ought to have written to you before upon this subject; but I really was so much hurried when I was leaving Ireland that I had not time, and indeed I have not much at present.

Lord Castlereagh will communicate to you all the news which I have sent him. I think that we have every prospect of success. I shall be at the mouth of the Tagus to-morrow morning, and I hope to join the army again on the evening of the following day and then commence our operations.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[490.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

Head Quarters at Livos, in Portugal,
8th Aug., 1808.

MY DEAR LORD,

Before I left England I brought to a conclusion an arrangement which had long been pending, by which ——— was to have for his wife a pension upon the Irish establishment of 500*l.* per annum, and one upon the English establishment of 900*l.* per annum, and he was to resign his office of ———, to

which Mr. ———, the member for ———, was to be appointed. The arrangement had been carried on under the superintendence of the Duke of Portland, with whom I had frequent conversations upon it; and at last, after I left London, Mr. ——— vacated his seat for the county of ———, upon understanding from the Duke of Portland that ——— was satisfied with the provision made for him, and that he would resign his office as soon as the King's pleasure had been taken upon his pensions.

Since that time I was informed by Mr. Flint that ——— has changed his mind, and that he would not resign unless the pensions should be granted for the joint lives of himself and ———. I believe that this is impossible under the Reversion Act; but even if it should be possible, I doubt whether you will deem it expedient. If it should be possible, I see no objection to the Irish pension being so granted; but if it should be impossible, and if you should deem it inexpedient, I hope you will object to ———'s change of intention. The expectation that this arrangement would be carried into execution has obtained for government the support of Lord ——— and Mr. ——— since the government has been formed, as Lord Castlereagh can inform you; and it would be a cruel disappointment to them if ——— were allowed to retain his office after he had so far agreed to the arrangement as to induce Mr. ——— to vacate his seat. The least of the bad consequences which would follow would be that government would lose the support of two if not of three members in the House of Commons, and it would be said with some foundation that their engagements had not been fulfilled.

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will speak to the Duke of Portland upon this subject.

I hope that I shall be able to get the whole of General Spencer's corps on shore this day and to-morrow, and to march on the day after to-morrow. There never was a coast better defended than that of Portugal by the surf.

There is nothing new here of any description. Junot is at Lisbon, having detached Loison across the Tagus with 4000 or 5000 men, I imagine to endeavour to open the communication with Spain, in which he will not succeed.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Duke of Richmond to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR ARTHUR,

Dublin Castle, 6th Sept., 1808.

Many thanks for your various accounts of your progress, which all reached me on the 4th. It is not possible for anything to have been better managed than the whole of your glorious campaign.

I can't understand the doubt about attacking without waiting for Moore. However, Junot settled that for you.

You must have bribed him to attack you when he did. You are certainly a lucky fellow in having the whole of the honour, which you well deserve, but which a few hours would have robbed you of. We are lucky, too, that you did command, for nobody could have done better. I trust nothing will now stop your coming here : the business must be over, and they can't want you under so many senior officers. I have written to Hawkesbury on the subject.

I have just appointed Mr. Saxton, vice poor Trail :* he will do well. I wrote two days ago, so I say nothing more of Ireland. I hope FitzRoy Somerset pleases you : pray give him a letter from Edward, which I enclose. Lady Wellesley is quite well, and highly delighted, as you may suppose. Louisa and Charlotte say, as you have killed all the French, you must now come back.

Yours, dear Arthur, most sincerely,

RICHMOND.

If you come home, I suppose FitzRoy will join the 43rd.

[491.]

To Lord Hawkesbury.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 26th Oct., 1808.

The different papers which have been sent to you from this country will have shown you the state of the county of Limerick, and of the two northern baronies of Kerry. I enclose a letter which has been received here within these two days, which shows with clearness the causes of these disturbances in Kerry, and of their continuance. The military force employed to get the better of them is stated to be fully sufficient, but the magistrates are unwilling and afraid to act ; and the lower order of the people have complete possession of the county. Colonel Crosbie, Mr. Fitzgerald, and others, have been lately sent into Kerry from their regiment ; and if I should find that they don't exert themselves, or that their exertions do not produce the

* Mr. Trail, the Civil Under-Secretary, died while Sir Arthur Wellesley was in Portugal. Mr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Saxton succeeded Mr. Trail.

desired effect, I propose to recommend to the Duke of Richmond to send down some active persons from hence to act as magistrates in that county.

The Archbishop of Dublin has desired me to remind your Lordship that you intended to convey to the Lord-Lieutenant the King's commands that his Grace might receive his fees as Chancellor of the Order of St. Patrick. These consist, I believe, in the old collars which have been worn by deceased knights.

Colonel Crosbie, whose activity and exertions in Kerry are very desirable, is, I understand, not pleased that the last list of baronets did not contain the name of Sir Rowland Blennerhasset, for whom that dignity had been promised him by Mr. Pitt; and the engagement was repeated by the existing government. I shall be very much obliged to you if you will not forget it when the next list of baronets will be created.

The Duke of Richmond will write to you about the next representative Peer. I am convinced that Lord Rosse is in every respect the person most fit, and to whom it would be most proper for government to give its countenance; and I am almost certain that if the countenance of government be given to any other candidate, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Bernard, and Sir Thomas Fetherstone will oppose government in the House of Commons. Lord Rosse's office of Lord of the Treasury, which might in consequence be vacated, would be no compensation for the loss of the support of those county members who attended constantly in the last session.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Richard Griffith, Esq.

[492.]

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 29th Oct., 1808.

I received only yesterday your letter of the 20th, which had been transmitted to London. Although I cannot lay claim to the talents which you suppose me to possess, you do me justice in believing that the interests and prosperity of this country are objects of my most anxious solicitude; and by the direction of the Lord-Lieutenant I have not neglected that branch of them to which your letter refers.

Before I went away, the plan for the extension and improve-

ment of the inland navigations which I had communicated to Parliament was recorded in a despatch from the Lord-Lieutenant to the Secretary of State ; and directions were given to communicate upon it with the Board of Navigation when the answer should arrive from England. The unfortunate sickness and death of the gentleman * who did the civil business of my office during my absence occasioned the delay of this, as it has of other important business : but since my return to Ireland, I have received his Grace's directions to take it up again ; and I hope that the country will reap the benefit of the system which he intends to carry into execution.

I will attend to the objects which you have enumerated in your letter, and shall be much obliged to you for any communications with which you may favour me upon this interesting subject.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[493.]

To John Beckett, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 31st Oct., 1808.

I enclose for Lord Hawkesbury's information an extract of a letter which I have received from Mr. Pollock in the county of Meath relative to an outrage lately committed in that county. It appears to be nothing more than an act of personal malice and revenge, because the person on whom it has been committed has taken the lands which were before held by another. Acts of this description, for the same reasons, are so common in Ireland that they are no longer matter of astonishment. It is only surprising that the proprietors who have land to let do not pay some attention to the claims and interests of the former occupier ; and that if they should fail in this duty, they should find any person willing to take their lands. But such is the demand for land in this country, that I believe any that might be out of lease would be taken even though possession should be to be acquired and kept at the risk of the occupier's life.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* Mr. Trail.

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

[494.]

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, Nov., 1808.

I have received your letters of Tuesday and Wednesday. I am quite surprised at the great growth of outrage since I quitted Ireland, for, excepting the cursory mention of an instance or two by Mr. Saxton, I had not received accounts of any particulars. In my letter, however, which I wrote to Mr. Saxton last night, I begged him to send me the letters as you have done, and as has been the constant practice of the office; for not only I cannot converse with the Ministers, but I cannot answer in Parliament, if I am not made acquainted with events as they occur. It is labour in vain to endeavour to get the papers out of circulation when once they are circulated; but it is no delay to send me for perusal the papers which go to the Secretary of State's Office. For instance, those arrived this evening are already gone there.

I don't understand Floyd's plan of making a man a magistrate *privately*; he must be put in the commission, he must take out his dedimus, and he must take the oaths. All these are acts which occasion notoriety, and they cannot be avoided. Take care that Mr. ——— is not a blackguard who wants to be put in the commission, and who can get nobody to recommend him in the regular way. If the Chief Baron knows him, and recommends him, there is no objection to making him a Justice of the Peace; but I don't see how it can be done in *private*.

I have also to observe that it is not usual to grant rewards in the way proposed. Rewards are granted for the apprehension of persons against whom informations are sworn, as they are granted for the apprehension and *prosecution to conviction* of persons unknown, guilty of certain crimes which have been committed; or secret-rewards are given for secret intelligence which would lead to the apprehension of persons against whom informations have actually been sworn, or against whom it is known informations would be sworn if they were in custody. Mr. ———, by General Floyd's account, appears to wish to give secret rewards for intelligence which will enable him to apprehend persons unknown who have committed two murders. But I must observe that it will be useless to apprehend them

unless informations have been, or will be, sworn against them ; and, indeed, unless there should be such informations, I don't see how the people can be apprehended. It is probable that the General has mistaken the plan ; and, if he has done so, I see no objection to give him the 200*l.* to be expended in rewards according to the rules which I have above referred to.

Patrick and George Nash, mentioned by Mr. FitzGerald, ought to be treated as directed by the Arms Act. I see no objection to giving young Nash a reward if he will give information which will lead to the taking of arms.

I believe Mr. Horton and Mr. Prendergast ought to have a few soldiers.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[495.]

To W. D. Adams, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

* Dublin Castle, 2nd Nov., 1808.

After I had seen you at Burlington House when I was last in London, I saw the Duke of Portland, who told me that ———— was perfectly satisfied with the provision which had been made for him; and his Grace authorised me to tell Lord Castlereagh that he might appoint Mr. Burton to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Canada. I concluded that the objection which I stated to you against this grant of the Irish pension for the joint lives of ———— and ———— had been found valid, and I delivered his Grace's message to Lord Castlereagh.

I was confirmed in this opinion when I came over here, and found that, although there had been a private communication upon the alteration of the terms of the pension, the official recommendation had not been returned from the Treasury, and I concluded that Mr. Burton would be appointed.

In consequence of your letter, however, a fresh recommendation has been made of a pension of 500*l.* per annum, Irish, for ———— and ————, which will go to England this night; and I hope that the appointment of Mr. Burton, which has been too long delayed, will now be made.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Hon. William Pole.

[496.]

MY DEAR WILLIAM,

Dublin Castle, 2nd Nov., 1808.

Mr. Wyatt has given me a letter addressed to you by Mr. Dunne, a gentleman of the Queen's County, who is desirous that certain malt which has been seized for a breach of the Excise Laws should be restored to him.

It is impossible for the Lord-Lieutenant to interfere in a matter of this description excepting at the recommendation of the Board of Excise. From Mr. Dunne's letter I should imagine that his case has already been before that Board, and if the Board have determined that any indulgence should be granted to Mr. Dunne, the indulgent determination on the case must have been sanctioned by the Lord-Lieutenant; but of this we have no record in the office. If, on the other hand, it should have been determined by the Board that the law should take its course, and Mr. Dunne should have no indulgence, the papers would not come before the Lord-Lieutenant.

In this last case, if Mr. Dunne should think that injustice has been done to him, or that there is anything in his case which can justify a remission in his favour of the penalties of the law, he may present a petition to the Lord-Lieutenant, which will be referred to the Board of Excise for their opinion, and they will be called upon to report on the case in detail in order to enable the Lord-Lieutenant to form his judgment.

I must inform you, however, that unless there are substantial grounds for interference, the Lord-Lieutenant will be disinclined to interfere in a case of this description, as his Grace is determined to carry into execution by all the means in his power the laws which have been made for the collection of the revenue, and to give no protection to those who break them.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Charles Saxton, Esq.

[497.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 10th Nov., 1808.

I arrived here yesterday, having slept at St. Albans on Tuesday night, as the weather was so very bad I did not like to keep my servants out.

Since my arrival Mr. Jenkinson has given me the enclosed

extract of a letter which he had written to me to Ireland, and which must have arrived since my departure, on the subject of a man of the name of ———, an Irish attainted rebel, who is in London. The first point to be ascertained is, whether ——— was really attainted of treason; the next is, whether there is any person in Dublin who knows him, and can swear against him as being the ——— so attainted. You will find out the first point in the office; Trevor* or Sirr† will tell you whether there is any one in Dublin who can swear to ———'s person.

If there should be such a one, it is desirable that you should send him over here without loss of time in charge of a King's messenger, and at the same time let me have a copy of the examinations and warrants under which we arrested two other persons of the same description in London last year.

I shall also be much obliged to you if you will get out of the office or from Trevor or Sirr a précis of the history of ———, an account of what particular acts of rebellion he was concerned in, and his general character. I ask, for this information as it may guide government in the determination they will come to about this person; not that I have any idea of allowing ——— to reside in London unmolested.

I am convinced that whenever we hear of an attainted rebel, or a person banished under the Banishment Act, either in Great Britain or Ireland, it is the duty of government to disturb him in the first instance, in order to prove its vigilance at least, and afterwards to dispose of him as may appear most expedient.

Pray let me hear from you the result of the discussions between the Chancellor and the Attorney-General respecting the Four Courts Marshalsea;‡ also the result of Mr. Taylor's§ inquiries respecting the country newspapers.

I think it very probable that we may, and very desirable that we should, put them nearly all down by the limitation which I proposed of their profits for publishing proclamations, by allowing their publication, excepting under special circumstances, only four times in each paper. This ought to be ordered forthwith,

* Dr. Trevor was attached to the Prison and Convict Department in Ireland.

† Major H. C. Sirr, Police Magistrate attached to Dublin Castle.

‡ A debtors' prison.

§ First Clerk in the Civil Department.

and Mr. Grierson* ought not to be allowed to authorise the publication of any proclamation oftener than four times in any paper without the directions of government.

Ever, my dear Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[ENCLOSURE.]

Mr. Jenkinson to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

(Extract.)

8th Nov., 1808.

Mr. Read, the magistrate, has desired me to state to you that there is now in London a man of the name of ———, an Irishman, who was particularly concerned in drawing up the paper found on ———. When ———, ———, ———, and others were arrested, he fled to France. Just after the Irish Rebellion he was called upon by proclamation to take his trial at Dublin; but not appearing, he was attainted of high treason. Lord Hawkesbury wishes me to mention this to you, in order that the above circumstances may be verified by you before we can take any steps to apprehend this man.

To Charles Saxton, Esq.

[498.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 11th Nov., 1808.

I think it would be desirable to send down from Dublin into the county of Kerry two persons to act as magistrates there, and of whose willingness to do their duty we should be certain. Government have adopted this measure before now in other parts of Ireland with great success; and I find that the Lord-Lieutenant and the Secretary of State approve of it in this instance. The only question is who we shall send down. One of the persons who have usually been sent on these missions is Mr. Swan; but he is now a Surveyor-General of Excise, and I fear that he could not be sent without great inconvenience to the revenue. Another is Sirr, but he also cannot be sent from the Police of Dublin.

I think, however, that Mr. Wilson, the late Chief Peace Officer of Dublin, might be sent down, and Mr. Atkinson; the duty of the office of the latter of these might be done by Hendrick till he would return to Dublin, more particularly if Hendrick should be appointed the Registrar of Carriages.

I wish that you would inquire from Sirr, or Pemberton,† or

* The King's Printer.

† Alderman Pemberton, a Police Magistrate.

Hone,* or Trevor, whether Wilson and Atkinson are proper persons to be employed on this service; and if they should be so, prevail on the Chancellor to give them the commission of the peace for Kerry and Limerick, and send them down with letters to General Lee and the magistrates with whom you are in correspondence in those counties, and with instructions to take out the military to put the law in execution in order to get the better of the existing disturbances.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[499.]

To Charles Saxton, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 17th Nov., 1808.

I have received your letters of the 12th and 14th, and I proceed to reply to the different points on which you require my opinion.

_____ ought to have immediately a per centage, at 10 per cent., upon the sum really due by _____ to the Crown, for which there is no security. The principle on which anything is given to _____ is to reward him for giving information which enabled government to seize a noted defaulter. He performed his part when the defaulter was taken, and he ought to have nothing to do with the recovery of the money due to government. It might have happened (and I dare say has happened) that _____ had made away with the money before he went off; and possibly he has long been in the habit of making use of the public money in his hands, and that he fled at last upon finding that the practice was likely to be discovered, paying with the week's balances his private creditors. It would not be just to _____ to deprive him of all reward because the defaulter is a greater rogue than he imagined he was, and because the Board of Excise have neglected their duty to a greater degree than we suspected. But it may be said it will be hard upon the public to pay money as per centage on a debt which it has no chance of recovering. The per centage on the debt, however, it must be recollected, is only the mode of paying the reward, and that the service is rendered (and a great benefit it is to the public) when the

* A Police Magistrate of Dublin.

defaulter is secured. My opinion, therefore, is that ———— ought immediately to have his money.

Don't mention the name of ———— to Lord Annesley, for you may be sure that he will not keep it secret.

I won't answer Colonel O'Dell's letter till I shall hear who it is settled shall be the sheriff of Limerick. I'll either speak or write to Lady Clare upon that subject.

I have written to the Lord-Lieutenant respecting the vacancy in the office of assistant-barrister in Mayo. Mr. Thompson has no reason to complain if the office should be given to a friend of Lord Sligo's.

Where is the depôt of the registry of wills at present? I rather believe that for this purpose, as well as to keep the records of Parliament, it would be necessary to make an addition to the Four Courts. I had frequent conversations with Mr. Trail upon this subject; and I have the authority of Mr. Cooke to incur any expense which may fairly be put upon him to place the records of Parliament in a proper situation. The late superintendent magistrate's office cannot be used for this purpose. It will occasion a large expense to fit it up and repair it; and, in a few years, it will be discovered that the building is not a proper one for the purpose to which it is applied.*

I have written to the Duke of Richmond about the sheriff of Roscommon. Colonel King and Mr. Cooper should nominate for Sligo, and Lord Hertford and Lord O'Neill for Antrim.

The Four Courts' Marshalsea ought immediately to be put in repair at the expense of government, and the marshal should be informed that, in future, he must pay the expense of the tenants' repairs, and government that of those by custom paid by the landlord. If there should be any doubt upon what repairs should be made by the tenant, and what by the landlord, let Mr. Johnson make out a list of the repairs which any building would probably require in a given number of years; and let government pay for all those which are rendered necessary by the lapse of time and desirable to give permanence to the building, and the marshal for those rendered necessary by wear and tear, by accidents, or by neglect.

I think that, as there are some interesting Catholic questions

* In consequence of this suggestion the large building in Henrietta-street, called the Will Office, was erected.

afloat just now, you might feed —— with another 100. I enclose a letter which I wrote to him to this town, which you may as well send to him.

Transmit to me all letters directed to me which are not marked on the King's service.

When I am in England it is desirable that you should either send me copies of the county correspondence which is sent to the Secretary of State's office, or that you should send me the copies which are to go thence after I shall have perused them, as was the practice when I was here last. The consequence of the present mode of transmitting this information is, that the copies sent to the Secretary of State's office get into circulation, and I can never see them; and although I am referred to upon every point respecting Ireland, I am not acquainted with what is going on. The origin of transmitting this description of intelligence was, that I was in the habit of sending in circulation the letters of intelligence which I received while I was in London; and the ministers were desirous of being kept equally well informed when I returned to Ireland. Lord Hawkesbury, therefore, desired that copies of the county correspondence, detailing anything of importance, should be transmitted to the office.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[500.]

To the Hon. Cecil Jenkinson.

DEAR JENKINSON,

London, 18th Nov., 1808.

I enclose some papers arrived from Ireland this evening. The riots appear to spread into Clare, and an outrage has been committed near Clogheen. I have written to Ireland respecting this ——, proposed by General Floyd to be a magistrate in *private*, as I suspect he is one who can get nobody to recommend him, and cannot get into the commission in any other manner. His notions of rewards are new also, and I have put them on their guard respecting them.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Limerick.

[501.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 18th Nov., 1808.

I assure you that I have not forgotten your wishes in favour of Mr. Casey, and I am sorry that it has not been in the power of the Lord-Lieutenant to gratify them.

The assistant-barrister's office now vacant is of the description which you suppose it to be, but I am convinced that the Lord-Lieutenant will not be able to give it to Mr. Casey.

I wish that you would state of what county it is that the assistant-barrister is willing to resign.

I shall be most happy to wait upon you whenever it may be in my power; but I am always obliged to travel with so much celerity that I have never time to go anywhere off the road.

I thank you for your good wishes. I hope that this country will discover before long that their news-writers have done me an injustice.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[502.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 18th Nov., 1808.

I enclose the name of the person recommended by Burton to be Sheriff of Clare. You will see by Sir Edward O'Brien's last letter to me that he has recommended another person, and you desired that Burton's wishes upon the subject might be consulted. Burton says that Mr. Studdert is a friend of Sir Edward's as well as his friend, but that won't satisfy Sir Edward, and probably the best thing to do would be to delay to say anything to Sir Edward till you will be able to give an office to his brother, about which he wrote at the same time.

You will recollect an impertinent letter which I received from ——— about a living: I enclose an answer to that letter, which I beg you to peruse and send if you approve of it.

I attended the Court of Inquiry yesterday, and the whole day was employed in reading the despatches to and from me. Afterwards, Sir Hew Dalrymple read something from a paper complaining of the misrepresentations in the newspapers,

which he attributed to me and my friends, which gave me an opportunity which I wished for of explaining that I acted by his desire, and not by his order, in signing the armistice. The newspapers have, as usual, misrepresented what both of us said, but I have made a note of what I said from the short-hand writer's notes, which I propose to put on the minutes tomorrow, of which note I enclose a copy. I think that the Court of Inquiry will be over in about a week if they stick to their business as they ought.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[503.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 23rd Nov., 1808.

I saw Lord Hawkesbury on the subjects on which you wrote to me in your last letter and others relating to Ireland, on which I had to speak to him.

Lady — had informed me that you had written to offer her 100*l.* per annum on the pension-list of this year, of which grant Lord Hawkesbury entirely approves, and he has desired me to tell you so. You had better, therefore, have the official application for a King's letter for this pension made out and sent here without loss of time.

Lord Hawkesbury wishes to have the deanery of Derry for Sir Hervey Bruce. It is the only piece of preferment in Ireland for which he wishes; and Lord Castlereagh, to whom Sir Hervey Bruce is related, is equally anxious that he should get it. I conclude, therefore, that you will recommend Sir Hervey Bruce, who is a respectable man, for this deanery, if it should become vacant. Lord Hawkesbury says that Sir Hervey Bruce has a living worth 1000*l.* a-year, which he will give up if he should get the deanery.

In respect to the Insurrection Act, Lord Hawkesbury is of opinion, in which I concur, that we shall do best to try what our new magistrates can do; and a special commission, if there should be cases which can be brought before it. I wrote fully to Littlehales last night about these magistrates and the special commission, to which letter I refer you. If these measures should not answer, we shall have the means of trying the Insurrection Act with effect, having in the disaffected parts magis-

trates who will put it in execution ; and if it should be necessary after all to try the Insurrection Act, Lord Hawkesbury wishes you to state it to him in a despatch before you will take any steps upon the measure, in order that he may bring it under the consideration of the Cabinet.

I spoke to Lord Hawkesbury respecting Strutt's peerage, upon which there are two or three points worthy of consideration. The first is, whether Strutt has any estate in Ireland, or any connection with that kingdom excepting by marriage, as Lord Hawkesbury says that they have determined to give the Irish peerages in every instance to Irishmen, excepting where it may be necessary to give a peerage for a service. The next is, whether Strutt, supposing him to have an estate in Ireland, is the person you would prefer to all others, as the person to have the Irish peerage which can now be given away ; and here I must remind you of Hamilton. I rather think that you imagined that to place Strutt in remainder to Lecale's peerage would not be considered as a new creation ; but it would ; I understand, to all intents and purposes, and the King could not create another peer till three more should be extinct.

In respect to Abbé Edgeworth's brother, Lord Hawkesbury desired me to tell you that he would inquire further from Perceval whether the English pension-list could take ——— off our shoulders ; and if they could, Lord Hawkesbury would be glad to see this arrangement made for him.

I spoke to him about making Lord Clancarty, Lord O'Neill, Colonel Bagwell, the Muster-Master General, Colonel Vereker, and Colonel Barry, Privy Councillors. He took their names down, and said he should speak to the Duke of Portland upon the subject, and begged you would write him a letter upon it which he could show the Duke.

I'll speak to the Duke of York again about Ready.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

*To Sir Richard Hardinge, Bart.**

[504.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 23rd Nov., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 22nd November. I understand that your office is in the Customs, and, if that be the case, Lord Annesley has nothing to say to it, and, at all events,

* Surveyor-General of the Customs.

a recommendation from me would be of no use to you, at the same time that it would not be proper for me to give it. The compensation for your fees must be fixed upon certain principles laid down by the Act of Parliament, the operation of which cannot be controlled by government with propriety.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[505.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 25th Nov., 1808.

I have received your two letters of the 21st. I will do what I can for Delvin, but, of course, just at present I have but little communication with the Horse Guards, and that little is by letter.

In respect to Lecale's case, it stands thus:—The Lord-Lieutenant had a perfect right to deprive Lecale not only of any part, but of the whole of his fees, and even of his office. He might have deprived him of the fees in question in two ways: first, by ordering the secretary to make a new table of fees, which has been done frequently by my predecessors, and by giving directions that the new table should be adopted instead of the old; secondly, by recalling the patent or warrant by which the office is held, and issuing a new patent or warrant directing that the objectionable fees should not be taken, as you did in the patents of the present Muster Masters. Either of these modes would have been legal, and Lord Lecale could not have taken the fees. The mode which Lord Hardwicke adopted of depriving Lord Lecale of his fees was by letter from the War Office, directing him not to take them. He had a right to them by his patent or warrant by which he held his office, as they were in the list of fees which he was authorised to take; but the Lord-Lieutenant might, at any time, have altered the list, and have sent down a new one to the Muster-Master's Office.

Now the question is, whether the letter from the War Office, directing that the fees should not be demanded, is not tantamount to an alteration of the list, although not so regular a mode of making the alteration. This doubt is what alone has prevented me from proposing at once that Lord Lecale should receive compensation from the extraordinaries of the army; but it is really so doubtful a case, that I have always wished that it

should come regularly before Parliament in the Committee of Supply.

If, however, you should be desirous of giving him the money at once, I recommend that we should state the case to the Secretary of State, and take the opinion of the Cabinet upon it, in order to be sure of their support in Parliament.

I am much afraid that we shall find here considerable opposition to Lecale's claim of compensation.

Every question of Irish compensation is considered with much jealousy; and I know that the answer will be, that Lecale had, for years, an office worth 5000*l.* per annum, for which he did nothing; that Lord Hardwicke acted right in relieving the officers of the army from this claim; and that supposing the mode he adopted of performing this good action was irregular, that is no reason why the public should pay for the irregularity of Lord Hardwicke's action.

In short, I have always considered this question as one of great delicacy; at the same time that I have been most desirous, and have often urged Foster, to take some steps to get Lecale's money for him.

Having now the whole question before you, let me know what I shall do about it. Shall I speak to Lord Hawkesbury?

The news from Spain is very bad. Blake is certainly defeated and his army dispersed.

The French are at Valladolid, and the head of Moore's column at Salamanca, and Baird at Lugo in Galicia. Baird says that his communication with Moore will be cut off. It is obvious that the British corps cannot form a junction in Spain, and Moore must retire into Portugal, and Baird to the sea and embark, in order to join at all. I don't think the British corps in any danger. Moore is certainly a most unlucky fellow.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

[506.]

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 27th Nov., 1808.

I received last night four letters from you, dated the 23rd, to which I am now about to reply.

First, that enclosing certain letters respecting the situation of the county of Waterford. I have long considered this county

to be in a very bad state, and I believe the gentlemen are still less disposed than those of Tipperary, Limerick, and Kerry, to do their duty as magistrates. That Mr. ———, who had an interview with you, has a large estate in the neighbourhood of ———, which is out of lease; and he and his friends and adherents exaggerate the accounts of the disturbances in that part of the country, in order to prevail upon government to establish a barrack at ———. I recommended to the Lord Lieutenant the establishment of this barrack, because ——— is evidently the point best situated in the whole county of Waterford for keeping up the communication between Clonmel, Dungarvan, and Waterford. Government had ground there, and it had been an old military station as far back as the rebellion of 1648. Mr. ——— has therefore so far succeeded in his object, and he will now ask and get the largest price for his land, and the county of Waterford will be in a state of disturbance, notwithstanding our barrack at ———, for the next four or five years.

In respect to ———'s and Mr. ———'s letters, the attention of Lord Waterford ought to be called, in a very particular manner, to the representation made by the former; and he ought to be told that it is the duty of the gentlemen of the county—and his duty, above all, as the Governor—to exert themselves to preserve the peace and to support the authority of the laws; that government has no power to employ the military force of the country in the preservation of the peace of any particular district; that it has already been so stationed as to enable the General officers commanding in the different counties to attend to the requisition of the magistrates for assistance to enable them to preserve the peace; and that orders have been given, and will be repeated, to the General officer commanding in the county of Waterford to give assistance to the magistrates who may require it; but that it is obvious that the suppression of these disgraceful disturbances must depend upon the exertions of the gentlemen of the county alone in their capacity of magistrates, and principally of his Lordship as the Governor; that it would be very desirable that his Lordship would endeavour to form an opinion of the causes of the disturbances in the county of Waterford, and communicate it to the Lord Lieutenant.

——— ought to be called upon to send information on oath of the facts which he states in his letter to Lord Waterford of the 16th November.

Mr. ——— of ——— ought to receive extracts of the Whiteboy Act and of the Arms Act, &c., for his instruction. The General officer commanding in the county of Waterford ought to be directed to attend to his requisitions for assistance of troops to enable him to re-establish and preserve tranquillity, but not to give him any troops to guard his house. In respect to money for information, that must depend upon the kind of man Mr. ——— is. The General officer in ——— is an idiot, I believe, and cannot be trusted with anything; but either Lord Waterford might be trusted, or there may be somebody in the county who can be trusted upon this point.

I agree in opinion with you about the information of ——— in respect to the murder of Mr. Fitzgerald. I have very little doubt of the intention to murder Mr. Fitzgerald, or anybody else who may be active; but the conspirators will never be convicted on the testimony of ———, and therefore great caution ought to be observed in talking to him, and particular care taken not to promise him a pardon.

Secondly, your letter containing the instructions to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Willock, and your letters to the magistrates of Kerry and Limerick on that subject, and to General Lee upon that subject and upon the disbursement of the public money in rewards. I concur in the instructions to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Willock; I refer you to my sentiments given in a former letter respecting the disbursement of money in rewards; and I think it would be advisable to make your instructions to General Lee more precise.

Thirdly, your letter enclosing the copy of that written to the Sheriff in Clare, in which I entirely concur.

Fourthly, your letter marked secret and confidential. In respect to the agent from France, I recommend you to apprise the police *secretly* of the arrival of this person, and, besides this, set Trevor to work upon him, without informing him where you received intelligence of his being in Ireland.

I recommend that you should speak to Lord Harrington about the sentiments prevailing in Limerick respecting the Kilkenny and South Mayo regiments, if you really believe that those sentiments do prevail at all generally, which I acknowledge that I should be induced to doubt. You can inquire upon this point from the Chief Baron and Mr. Dickson, the late High Sheriff.

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will send me any

account there may be in the office of the proceedings of the lay Catholics who assembled in Dublin on the resolutions of the ecclesiastics respecting the veto ; or, if there should be no such account, if you will endeavour to have one drawn up for me. I rather believe they assembled in Dublin in August or September, but I know it was while I was in Portugal.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[507.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 28th Nov., 1808.

I have received two more letters from you, dated the 23rd; at night.

In respect to payment of the magistrates in Kerry and Limerick, my opinion is, that if they don't stay more than two or three months they ought to be paid 200*l.*; if six months, 300*l.*; if a year, 400*l.* or 500*l.* They ought likewise to be allowed their travelling expenses to the country and back again.

The money to be paid to them ought, if possible, to be taken from the Treason Fund, or, if that should not be possible, it must be taken from the Vote of Credit; but before I decide upon this point I must look into the Treason Fund Act.

I think the discovery of the cannon at Carrickfergus scarcely worth notice.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[508.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 29th Nov., 1808.

I received this morning your letters of the 25th and 26th, and this evening three of the 27th.

In answer to that of the 25th, I recommend that Mr. ——— should be encouraged, and by no means checked. It can do no harm to confine a few fellows for a few months in gaol, and take their trial, if it should be advisable to allow ——— or ——— to receive their pardons, in order that they may become evidence against them. It is possible that other evidence may be found, and, if not, at all events, the county of Limerick will have gained by their confinement a short respite.

The Lord Lieutenant will be able to decide whether he will send a special commission into the south of Ireland, as soon as he will receive Serjeant Moore's report of the state of the gaols and of the evidence of the several prisoners;

I recommend to you to send to Mr. Foster a copy of the note from Lord Northland, and ask him his opinion upon the subject.

In answer to your letter of the 26th, it is quite right that Walsh should be tried by a general court-martial for desertion, but I also think that something may be done on his trial for the civil offence. At all events, it is desirable that the Attorney and Solicitor-General should consider well Mr. ——'s information on oath, adverting particularly to that part of it which states Walsh to be a deserter whom he was ordered to seize, he being on permanent duty, and a soldier at the time, and Walsh being harboured in the house of —— at the time he committed the offence.

In answer to your letter of the 27th, regarding the French emissary supposed to be gone towards Belfast, I have to mention to you that I believe the person most likely to find him out for you at Belfast is Mr. ——, of whom Pollock will give you intelligence.

In answer to your letter of the 27th, enclosing one from General Walker and one from Mr. ——, I have to observe that General Walker appears to think his attentions to the county of Waterford are to be limited by the acquisition of materials to make his report. Nothing that we can say to him can improve him much, but I think it would be desirable that you should inform him that government is determined to aid the magistrates to the utmost extent to restore tranquillity to the county of Waterford; that for this purpose the magistrates will be directed to make requisitions upon him for the assistance of troops; and that the Lord Lieutenant requests he will be prepared to comply with these requisitions; that if he should not have in the county a sufficient number of troops to perform the services required of them, or if he thinks it likely that their services will be required in parts of the county in which there are no accommodations for the troops, he is requested to report these wants through the regular channel, and early measures will be adopted to supply them.

In respect to the gaol of Limerick, you should write to the

Sheriff of the county and draw his attention to its state, and recommend him to adopt the measure of decreasing the number of persons confined within it, which has been recommended by Mr. Gabbett. General Lee should at the same time be directed to provide for the security of the prisoners who will be confined in the Bridewells of Rathkeale, as well on their journey thither as while confined there.

In answer to your letter of the 27th, marked private and confidential, I have to observe that, although it is important that we should watch and know the progress of the dissensions among the Roman Catholics on the veto, we may be very certain that they will all tend to one end, namely, to unite the whole body in one sentiment, and that sentiment the most violent. I understand the Kilkenny resolutions to be the same in purport as those of Louth, and the latter to agree with the resolutions of a meeting in Dublin. These very resolutions are the first step to a reunion, and it will turn out that neither the offer of the veto nor the resolutions ever meant anything.

I am convinced that the Roman Catholics will petition again in the next session of Parliament, and many will support them; but their conduct on the veto has given them a mortal blow in this country, if those who ought to take advantage of it do not miss their opportunity.

I am glad that you made Mr. Herbert give you his opinion in writing regarding the expediency of putting in force the Insurrection Act in Kerry and Limerick. I have written fully to the Lord Lieutenant upon this subject, and I can only say that if it should be necessary to adopt this measure, that of sending Mr. Wilson and Mr. Willock into these counties will enable us to do it effectually.

I observe in the *Précis* of the correspondence from the Civil Office there is a letter to General Mitchell, directing him to inquire into the circumstances attending various depredations stated by Mr. Wilson, of Omagh Lodge, to have been committed on his property, and I wish you to let me know what occasioned this order to General Mitchell.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Sir Edward B. Littlehales to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,

Phoenix Park, Sunday, 4th Dec., 1808.

On the subject of the Catholic papers which you require, I enclose such of the documents as are in the office, contained in the enclosures herewith sent, five in number. If they should not furnish you to the extent of the information that you have desired, which I fear will be the case, I shall be obliged to you to let me know, as I have no doubt that I can have an account drawn up according to your wishes.

Although the enclosed secret intelligence which I received yesterday is mysterious, yet as it comes from a quarter on which much dependence is to be placed, it tends, in some measure, materially to confirm my belief that there is an emissary from France lately arrived in this country, and that he has most probably proceeded to Belfast.

The names of particular persons who attended the Commissioners of Inquiry into the complaints of certain State prisoners a few days since are annexed to the within paper.

I have the honour to be very faithfully yours,

E. B. LITTLEHALES.

[ENCLOSURES.]

Resolutions of the Roman Catholic Prelates of Ireland.

Resolved,—That it is the decided and unanimous opinion of the Roman Catholic Prelates of Ireland here convened, that it is not expedient to introduce any alteration in the canonical mode hitherto observed in the nomination of Irish Roman Catholic Prelates.

Resolved,—That the Roman Catholic Prelates pledge themselves to adhere to the rule by which they have hitherto been uniformly guided, namely, to recommend to His Holiness such persons only as are of unimpeachable character for loyalty and peaceable conduct.

A resolution of thanks to Dr. Milner.

The upper class of Catholics are right angry at this; all other highly pleased.

21st Sept., 1808.

The Aristocratic Catholics, as they are called, continue indefatigable in soliciting signatures to a requisition for rescinding the Resolutions of the Prelates. Many of the Prelates have, on that account, left Dublin, being determined to persevere.

Those who support the Prelates (and they will be found to be the great body of the Catholics of Ireland, for the parish priests will inspire their congregations to that effect) state the following case:—

“That in 1779 the then Secretary of State sent for Dr. Troy, asked him would the Bishops assent to give the King the authority of rejecting the appointment of Catholic Bishops if a complete emancipation were granted.

“He demanded time to consider, and returned for answer that they would accede to the proposal, and then signed a paper to that purpose. This they excuse by alleging it was recently after the Rebellion, and done under the influence of fear.

“They were then given to understand that the King must be vested with

the authority, as a preceding condition to Catholic Emancipation, and the negotiation stopped.

"They were afterwards solemnly assured of a total repeal if they supported the Union. This they agreed to, and with industry and zeal promoted that measure by procuring signatures from every parish priest in the country, and their parishioners.

"In this they were disappointed. They charge duplicity on Mr. Pitt and the government in England and in Ireland, and say if they were now to consent to the proposition of negative authority in the Crown, they would again have the King's conscience set up as a bar to their claim, and therefore they will never consent previous to emancipation."

They charge the Catholic lords, gentry, and moneyed Catholics, who are now soliciting signatures, as acting merely from personal motives of interest and ambition, to which they would sacrifice the rights of the Church, and the good of the community at large.

"They say that the good of the farmers and peasantry of Ireland is not in the contemplation of the aristocratic Catholic body, and that were they to rescind what they have resolved, such conduct would throw them into contempt, and incite their congregation to tumult and disaffection to government."

Dr. Delany, in concluding his speech in the convocation in Back-lane, spoke to this effect :—"That to acquiesce would tend to disturb the public tranquillity ; for the Catholic people at large would never agree that their Prelates in ecclesiastical matters would subject those they elected to the prelacy to be rejected by a King ; to resign what has been always considered an act of the Vicegerency of St. Peter to His Holiness the Pope to the arbitrary will of a Protestant monarch. It would be giving two heads to the Church, whereas there could be but one Church whose will is dedicated to His Holiness, and to no other.

"That though the Prelates were threatened that Parliament had power to inflict penalties and restrictions by reviving penal laws, yet that could have no influence ; conscience must submit to persecution ; it was submitting to the will of God. Let government send us and our flocks back to our former poverty and former oppressions ; we can still hold the affection of the people and embrace their hearts."

Several of the Prelates have left town, to avoid conferring with the laity.

Declaration.

The Resolutions entered into by the Roman Catholic Prelates assembled in Dublin on the 14th September having been interpreted by many persons of our own as well as other religious persuasions as conveying a determination that the negative proposed to be given to the Crown in the appointment of Roman Catholic Bishops is not under any circumstances admissible, inasmuch as it is considered to involve a concession inconsistent with the principles of the faith and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church : We, the undersigned Roman Catholics of Ireland, feeling the importance of removing as far as in us lies such a misconception as well of the principles of the faith and discipline of our Church as of the meaning of our Prelates in the Resolutions alluded to, think it necessary to declare, 1st, that there exists nothing in the principles of our faith or in the discipline of our Church which interposes a bar to the concession of the negative in question, should it be sought for under circumstances otherwise eligible and expedient. 2ndly, that it is not

considered by the Prelates assembled on the above occasion that they have determined anything which militates with the foregoing resolution.

We feel ourselves warranted in the first assertion by the nature of the proposed negative, which merely purports to afford the Crown a security that persons to whom, for want of loyalty, a well-founded objection lies, shall not possess the influence which attaches to the episcopal character in our persuasion, a security which our religion by no means prevents us from giving to a Protestant government.

In making the second objection we grounded ourselves on the declarations to that effect made by the three Roman Catholic Archbishops and several of the suffragan Bishops who attended the assembly of the Roman Catholic Prelates on the occasion alluded to, which declarations were made by them in the presence of several of us on application made to them on the subject.

After what we have stated, it is hardly necessary for us to say that we do not in the slightest degree mean to cast any censure or reflection on the conduct or decision of the Roman Catholic Prelates lately assembled in Dublin, with which it is not our intention in any manner to interfere further than is necessary for the purpose of removing the misconception which has prevailed with respect to the meaning of the Resolutions then entered into, and the consequent misconception of the faith and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church, concerning which we feel that it is at the present moment of the utmost importance as well to the welfare and security of the United Kingdoms as to the interests of His Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects that no mistaken notion should be suffered to prevail.

It is proposed by the authors of this declaration that it should be sent down into the country for signatures.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[509.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 30th Nov., 1808.

I have received your letters. I have already written to you about the deanery of Derry, which you will observe that Lord Hawkesbury wishes to give to Sir Hervey Bruce, who has a living of 1000*l.* per annum to resign. You had better, therefore, make your arrangements on the scale of having that living only to give away.

If the deserter should be convicted, and the sentence should be that he is to suffer death, I rather believe that Lord Harrington's warrant does not extend to cases of death, and that the court-martial must be referred to the consideration of the King. But I will take care that the Judge-Advocate-General, who, I imagine, would, in that case, lay the court-martial before the King, shall be acquainted with your opinion that this deserter should suffer, if death should be the sentence of the Court.

I think it possible that, as Walsh was a deserter, he may be

convicted of the murder on a trial at the assizes. I should have no doubt upon the subject, if he were not a criminal in the eye of the law as being a deserter; in that case the resistance to Mr. Elliott would have been legal. But being himself a criminal already, I should think that killing a person to resist his own capture must go very near murder.

There is nothing new. I don't believe the stories in the newspapers of Blake's victories, nor do I believe that his defeat has been so complete as Baird has stated it to be; but, from all I have seen and heard of the Spanish armies, I am very well convinced that if they are not already defeated and dispersed, they will be so before long. It does not appear to me that either Moore or Baird is in any danger.

The Court of Inquiry have adjourned till next Tuesday, to give time to Burrard to come over. We expect him every moment, and I imagine that what remains to be investigated will not take more than two, or three days. I hope, therefore, to be able to leave town for Ireland by the end of the week.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[510.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

Hatfield, 4th Dec., 1808.

I have received your letters of the 23rd and 28th.

The case of Mr. ——— was this: he had an interest in the county of ———, which it was thought would secure ———'s election. He offered it to ——— upon the promise of the assistant-barrister's place of Armagh, and, as well as I recollect, some other; and it was promised to ——— for him by your desire. You will see the case stated in the book of requests; also the particulars of the engagement, &c., in a letter from me to ———, or from me to Mr. ——— himself, of which Ready will find the copy among my papers.

You will see Pole's claim for Mr. Thompson, likewise stated in the book of requests. Pole's is an old claim from the period of Lord Hardwicke's government.

Mr. Smyth's for Mr. Lyne was one originally brought forward by Mr. Perceval in his favour. It was afterwards urged by himself, by Rochfort, and by Tom Pakenham; and I told him, by your desire, that his claim should be taken into consideration

when there would be an opportunity. You will see a copy of my letter to him among my papers.

When he retired from Parliament last year he again urged his request, and I told him that his being out of Parliament would make no difference in it.

Whenever anybody claims a *promise* for me, you will find a true statement of the case either in my letters or in the book of requests; and you may depend upon it that I have never made any promise of any description without your authority. Indeed I recollect no promise excepting this one to Mr. ———.

I think you have done quite right to offer Dromore to Lord Sligo. It is a great object to provide for Keating, which will be handsomely done by giving him the Deanery of Tuam. There is no end of claimants for livings in Ireland, and I cannot do better than refer you to the list I gave you of the claimants for promotion in different lines when I went to Portugal last summer. In addition to this list I have to mention Lord Rosse's brother, about whom I enclose you another letter. Let me know what answer I shall give him.

I have not got a copy of the list I gave you; but I think I shall be able to go to Ireland in the end of the week, and I can then talk the matter over with you.

I have taken advantage of the holidays at the Court of Inquiry to come and hunt here, and return to town to-morrow.

The newspapers have misrepresented and misstated the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry to such a degree that nobody can understand them. As soon as I can get them made, I will send you copies of my narrative and different statements, from which you will be a better judge of the real state of the case.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

[511.]

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

Hatfield, 4th Dec., 1808.

I have received your letters of the 28th, 29th, and 30th, and I am happy to find that the country is becoming more quiet, and have no remark or suggestion to make upon these letters or their enclosures, excepting to request you to urge the High Sheriff of Clare not to bail the persons in whose favour he expects that bail will be offered, as stated in his letter, if they should be in confinement for offences not bailable.

I also think it would be desirable that Mr. Fitzgerald should be made a magistrate of Tipperary, Clare, and Kerry, as well as Limerick. I have been hunting here, but I return to town to-morrow.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[512.]

*To B. Wyatt, Esq.**

MY DEAR SIR,

Hatfield, 4th Dec., 1808.

I send you some letters, likewise a paper upon Sir Harry Burrard, which I wish you to copy for me. The memorandum which is enclosed with it will show you how it ought to be made out;

You will see that the letters are of no great importance, and may be delayed; but I should wish to have this paper at my house in town to-morrow, at five or six o'clock.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[513.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 7th Dec., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 5th. I recommend that Mr. Fitzgerald should not be discouraged; let his zeal be rather directed to public objects, and regulated. I also recommend that they should go on taking people up in the disturbed counties, although there may not be evidence against them.

Is Mahon, of Thomastown, a magistrate, or who is our magistrate in the county of Roscommon? If we have one, he should be written to about this late outrage.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[514.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 7th Dec., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 5th, and entirely concur in the sentiments contained in your letter to the Duke of Portland,

* Private Secretary to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

which I have sealed and forwarded to him, and I have likewise forwarded that to Lord Hawkesbury.

I return the Duke's letter, and I enclose the copy of one which I have written to Lord Hawkesbury respecting the creation of ——— a Baronet, which I judge, from your answer to the Duke of Portland, was not recommended by you.

I forget whether Foster applied to me to be a Privy Councillor; I rather believe he did by letter. If he did, his letter will be found among my papers in Dublin. Barry certainly did. I agree entirely with you that Lord Shannon and Lord Thomond ought to be made Privy Councillors.

Let me know by the return of the express whether you approve of my recommendation of Alexander in preference to ——— to be the Baronet.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Hawkesbury.

[515.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 7th Dec., 1808.

I see by a letter which the Duke of Portland has written to the Duke of Richmond, that ——— is about to be created a Baronet, at the recommendation of Lord Kingston. From the Duke of Richmond's answer to that letter, I don't believe he ever recommended this creation; and from all that I know of ———, he is not the kind of man who ought to be thus preferred, although respectable in his line of a banker at ———.

I hope that if the Duke of Portland has not taken the King's pleasure upon this creation, and if it has not been recommended by the Duke of Richmond or yourself, you will endeavour to prevail upon his Grace not to recommend it to the King. Independently of other reasons for delaying it, at least it is desirable that recommendations for favours of this description should go through the government of Ireland and yourself.

If the Duke of Portland should be inclined to give us in Ireland one Baronet in addition to Mr. Blennerhasset, I should recommend, and I am sure it would be agreeable to the Duke of Richmond, that Mr. Alexander, the late magistrate of the police, should be the person. An expectation of this favour was held out to him by Lord Hardwicke, when he was Lord-Lieu-

tenant; and although I believe that he would not have made any serious opposition to our Police Bill last year, he might have given us some trouble, from which he refrained. He has a large fortune, and this création would be popular in the city of Dublin, where his influence is very great.

I write to the Duke of Richmond upon this subject.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[516.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 7th Dec., 1808.

I received last night your letter of the 4th. Whether you can give anything to Mr. O'Brien or not, it will be necessary to allow Burton to recommend the Sheriff for Clare. When I saw Saxton in London, he appeared to think that Ross Macan ought to be allowed to retire upon four-fifths of his time, he being entirely disabled. If that be the case really, he ought to be allowed to retire; and a provision will be made for O'Brien, which is certainly desirable.

As the Brownes give up the Assistant-Barrister's place, I think you would do well to take it and give it to the person to whom government is under the longest engagement; this will be Pole, I imagine. But I hear that his friend Mr. Thompson is not reckoned a proper person to be an Assistant-Barrister, holding an office in the Four Courts (Lord Wellesley's deputy) which requires his constant attendance, and is moreover worth 2000*l.* per annum. I will speak to Pole upon this subject. The next to Pole is Mr. ———, about whose engagement I wrote to you the other day; and the third either Lord Limerick's friend Mr. Casey, or Mr. Smith's friend Mr. Lyne. At all events, I think you ought to take the office, whatever you may do with it, as the Brownes don't appear to make any merit or to found any future claim on giving it up.

Don't do anything more for the ——— on any account.

I enclose a letter from Lord Rosse, and my answer, relative to the Deanery of Tuam. Forward the answer, if you should approve of it. I am sure that Keating will take the Deanery of Tuam.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron.

[517.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 7th Dec., 1808.

Before I left Ireland, Colonel O'Dell wrote to me to recommend that a Mr. ——— should be the Sheriff of the county of Limerick for the next year; and having recollected a conversation which I had with you last winter in Dublin respecting the appointment of Sheriffs for the county of Limerick, I shall be much obliged to you if you will let me know whether this recommendation by Colonel O'Dell is consistent with the rule which you then told me ought to be observed, and if it be, whether, in your opinion, Mr. ——— is a proper person to be the Sheriff of the county of Limerick in these troublesome times. The person to be selected for this office upon this occasion ought, indeed; to be not only a proper, but the most proper, person we could find.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[518.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 8th Dec., 1808.

I spoke to Pole this morning respecting his friend Thompson, and represented to him, first, that Mr. Thompson was not at present a practising barrister; secondly, that he held an office worth 2000*l.* a-year under Lord Wellesley in the Court of Exchequer; and that, for these reasons, he was not a fit person to fill the situation of assistant barrister; and that the large amount of his emoluments showed that he did not want the office; thirdly, that this being the case, it would be supposed and asserted that he and Lord Wellesley had pressed him unreasonably upon me, as I belonged to the Irish government; and that we should be disgraced at all events; but that the objections to Mr. Thompson were of a nature to be made, not by me only, but by any secretary.

Pole appeared disposed to give up his recommendation of Thompson; indeed, he desired me to tell you that he would not, on any account, press anything that might be deemed improper. But he wishes to be allowed either to recommend another barrister instead of Thompson, or he should prefer to have, as soon as possible, an office of 600*l.* or 700*l.* a-year for

Mr. Kemmis, whom he had recommended to you for one of between 300*l.* and 400*l.* He wishes, however, to have this immediately, and he hints at Ross Macan's vacancy, for which Kemmis pressed when I was in Ireland. If this were done, he would give up entirely his claim to the office of assistant barrister for Thompson or for anybody else.

I have spoken to Lord Hawkesbury about the Privy Councillors. He consents to your recommending Lord Shannon, Lord Thomond, Lord O'Neill, Lord Clancarty, Mr. Bagwell, the Muster Master, Mr. Vereker, and Mr. Barry. I also spoke to him about ———, who, it appears, was recommended by you to be a baronet.

There is sad news from Spain. Castaños has been defeated and his army dispersed. Moore has commenced his retreat into Portugal; and Baird his to Vigo, where he is to embark. Hope is with his division in front of Madrid; and it is believed that he must retire to the south of Spain.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[519.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 9th Dec., 1808.

I have received this evening two letters from you of the 6th, and two of the 7th.

In respect to the inquiry into Mr. ———'s complaints, if it should turn out that there is no foundation for them, I think that he ought to be prosecuted for a libel on the magistrates and other persons whom he mentions as the abettors of and actors in the outrages of which he complains.

I don't know what the meaning of the police officer to be stationed at Ballinamult is. If a magistrate be required to attend the troops, the police officer has not the power of a justice of the peace; if a police officer be required only to do the duties which an officer of that description can perform by law, he ought to be required to perform them without any additional payment. The particular circumstances of the counties of Kerry and Limerick rendered it expedient to send persons specially selected by government, with the commission of magistrates, into those counties; but it will never answer to send

persons of this description, paid by government, into every county or district of Ireland in which there may be disturbance. I don't mean to say that this might not be an efficient mode of keeping the peace; but it would be very unconstitutional, and would be objected to in Parliament.

In regard to the conspiracy said now to exist in Dublin, I have only to observe that I consider Ireland always liable to the effects of conspiracy; but I conceive that there exist at present obvious reasons for numbers of disaffected appearing in Dublin, besides conspiracy.

In answer to your letter of the 7th, I think that Trevor had better see ———, and learn what he has to say.

We must watch the disaffected very closely; put the police magistrates on their guard; take measures to ascertain that they attend in their offices during the several hours in the day and night when their attendance is required, and when once they are there we may be pretty certain that they will do something, and that something will soon be their duty. If you should discover any instance of non-attendance, take immediate notice of it, and you may say that it is my intention to recommend to the Lord-Lieutenant to dismiss from his office any magistrate who does not attend as required by law; and that I know that his Grace will attend to any recommendation I may make to render the police of Dublin efficient.

Keep an eye upon the Roman Catholics also.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[520.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 13th Dec., 1808.

I enclose a letter which I have received from the Bishop of Limerick relative to a living likely to be vacant, and which I believe has since become vacant, in Kerry. I likewise enclose a memorandum which the Bishop gave me upon the subject last night; and I recommend you to make very particular inquiries respecting the circumstances of this living before you give it to anybody. I have requested the Bishop to give me all the information in his power.

I think the Dean of Limerick will live till I shall go to Ireland at least, for I hear that, though quite an idiot, he is

better in health than ever. It is probable, therefore, that we shall have more time to consider of the claimants to this dignity; and really till I shall look over the book of requests and talk over the subject with you, I shall not be able to give you an opinion.

The Court of Inquiry went on capitally this day, and I think will be over to-morrow. If so, you may expect me every moment after you receive this letter; but I will write again as soon as I shall be able to decide when I shall set out.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I enclose a letter from Lord Hertford. Lisburn is his borough in the county of Antrim; and I have written him that you will not dispose of any office in Lisburn without consulting his wishes.

[521.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 14th Dec., 1808.

I received this day your letters of the 10th and 11th. Lady Clare is very anxious that Mr. Preston should be Dean of Limerick, and if other matters should suit, it would be advisable to appoint her friend to that dignity; but I suspect, from what I hear, that the old Dean is not so near his exit as the candidates for preferment appear to expect, and, at all events, wish.

I will talk to you about Pole's friend when we meet, which I hope will be in a few days.

I will speak to Lord Hawkesbury about making Foster a Privy Councillor.

I agree with you in thinking that Day's nephew, to whom you intended to give a living, ought to have a portion of the union lately vacated by the death of Mr. Day; and the better half of the union ought to be given to Mr. Hyde. You will do well, however, to delay your decision upon the whole question till you will receive the Bishop's report upon the union.

Lord Shannon will certainly not be satisfied with this provision for Mr. Hyde; but if you should tell him that you purpose to do something better for him when an opportunity will offer, he ought and will be satisfied for the present.

The Court of Inquiry is at last over, and I propose to set out for Ireland on Friday. I expect to be there early on Monday.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[522.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 15th Dec., 1808.

I have received all Sir Edward Littlehales's and your letters, and as I propose to set out for Ireland to-morrow, I defer to answer the former till I shall see you.

I shall be obliged to you if, as soon as you will receive this, you will have an order sent over to Holyhead that I may have a packet.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Hon. Cecil Jenkinson.

[523.]

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 23rd Dec., 1808.

I have it in command from the Lord-Lieutenant to state to you that, in consequence of a communication which was had with the Secretary at War in the month of August last, a proclamation (of which the enclosed is a copy) was issued here on the 1st of September following, notifying His Majesty's pardon to all deserters who should return to their duty on or before the 24th of October last, and that every possible publicity has been given to that order, either by its insertion in the newspapers of this city and other places, or its circulation through the medium of the churchwardens of the respective parishes, the commanding officers of regiments and of yeomanry corps, and the inspecting field officers of districts, and others.

I am upon this occasion to observe that from the best information which has been latterly received on the peculiarly disturbed state of the counties of Clare, Kerry, and Limerick, it is apparent that the most daring of those persons who have committed many of the outrages that have recently occurred in those counties are deserters from His Majesty's service, exclusive of which there is reason to apprehend that there are many others still undetected, particularly in the county of Mayo, some

of whom might possibly be induced to avail themselves of the protection and benefit to be derived from our extension of the time limited for the surrender of deserters.

His Grace, therefore, desires that you will be pleased to bring this subject under the consideration of Lord Liverpool as early as circumstances will permit, with his Grace's recommendation that the term which had been stipulated for the surrender of deserters may be prolonged, and in the propriety of which his Grace is inclined to think that his Lordship will concur for the reasons before assigned.

I am, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[524.] MEMORANDUM FOR SIR EDWARD B. LITTLEHALES.

23rd Dec., 1808.

General Affleck ought to be sent to Limerick as soon as Serjeant Moore will return.

The papers on the Hibernian School to be taken into consideration.

The copy of the memorandum on the Militia Bill which he sent me to England last year.

[525.]

To the Earl of Harrington.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 24th Dec., 1808.

As Mr. Serjeant Moore is returned to Dublin, having completed the object of his mission in the disturbed parts of the counties of Limerick and Kerry, there seems no further reason for requesting your Lordship to withhold your intention of sending Major-General Sir James Affleck to relieve Brigadier-General Lee in the command of the district which you have assigned to him.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lieut.-General Floyd.

[526.]

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 24th Dec., 1808.

It having been represented to government from a respectable quarter, that the specie which was remitted from hence in the course of last month, in part discharge of the subsistence of the troops composing the garrison of Cork, has not been, as enjoined by the positive injunctions of government, brought into circulation through the medium of the soldiery, but, on the contrary, that the paymasters of the regiments make a practice of exchanging the Bank of Ireland notes and coin remitted to them with the bankers in Cork on receiving a certain premium, by which means both are completely withheld from public circulation, I am directed to enclose to you herewith a copy of instructions issued to the commanding officers and paymasters of the several corps concerned with regard to the conveyance and disposal of the silver tokens lately remitted to them; and to suggest the propriety of your causing an immediate and strict investigation to be made into the circumstances represented on this occasion, in order that it may be ascertained whether, as alleged, the intentions of government in affording a supply of silver currency for the accommodation of the people of Cork and its neighbourhood have been rendered ineffectual, and if so to whom the same is attributable.

I am to request you will communicate the result of such investigation as you make into this business as early as practicable.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

MEMORANDUM FOR SIR EDWARD B. LITTLEHALES.

[527.]

25th Dec., 1808.

If Mr. Conway ought to be informed at all of the reasons which occasioned the refusal of the documents for which he asked, they should have been the real reasons.

Let a letter be drawn to inform him that the documents for which he asked were refused to him because documents of that description are not usually granted from the Treasury.

That there is every disposition in this government to facili-

tate the settlement of the accounts of the 6th Irish Brigade with the late Colonel Conway.

That sums of money have been issued on account of that, as well as of other regiments in the service, and the agents of that regiment, for which the regiment and its Colonel are, of course, responsible. That if the agents have not accounted, as they ought, for those sums, they are responsible to the colonel, who appoints them; but the public can never bear responsibility for any sums advanced on account of any regiment excepting that of the colonel himself and the regiment.

That there will be no difficulty in stating what sums have been advanced and at what periods to the 6th Irish Brigade, if that is the document which is required; but the government cannot allow any question now to arise regarding the propriety of making any particular advance to the agents of the regiment on its account.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[528.]

To William Ogilvie, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 25th Dec., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 22nd, and you may depend upon it that I will give all my attention to the perusal of the papers you have sent to the Lord-Lieutenant upon Ardglass Harbour, and I will give my opinion upon them to the Lord-Lieutenant, with every disposition to recommend a measure which may be useful to the country and to the navigation of St. George's Channel, and which will be agreeable to you.

I am glad that it is hoped that Mr. Rennie will look at Ardglass. A report from him upon that situation would be most useful; and his recommendation of the construction of the proposed pier would most probably be attended to.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[529.]

To the Earl of Roden.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 26th Dec., 1808.

I have just received your letter of the 23rd, and I am much flattered by the confidence you repose in my advice and opinion.

There are few regiments that have not second battalions, and as it is a most important object for your son to see service, I must endeavour to get for him a commission in one of the regiments whose second battalions are in Spain or Portugal. I will look over the list, and see which of the commanding officers is most likely to look after and take care of him; and I will ask the Duke of York to put him into that regiment. It will not be very easy to get him a lieutenancy at an early period, for which reason you will do well to determine to send him upon service as an ensign.

You have not told me his name. When he will join the army, if I should not be with it myself, I will give him letters of introduction to many officers who will take care of him, besides to his commanding officer.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To J. W. Croker, Esq.

[530.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 27th Dec., 1808.

We propose to send a special commission into Munster, but it will necessarily commence its sittings only on the 16th of January, the day on which every person who intends to be in the House of Commons on the first day of the session ought to have left Dublin: I conceive, therefore, that it would be impossible for you to undertake our concerns there. But besides this objection to what you propose, I must mention to you that we have already employed Serjeant Moore in the arrangement of this business, and we could not go on without his assistance. It would not be of much use to you to be second to him, even if you could stay in Ireland for the purpose.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Lord Bishop of Derry.

[531.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 27th Dec., 1808.

I have received your Lordship's letter of the 24th instant, and I am sorry to tell you that, having made every effort to get

the office for your brother which you wished he should have, I have not been able to succeed. My next object was to endeavour to get some other office for him of equal value at least, although probably not equally desirable to him; but in this I have failed, as there is no vacancy of any description.

I am afraid that I must give up all thoughts of obtaining this seat for government, unless Lord Northland will let us have it on the same terms which he was likely to get for it from any other party. We will give either a sum of money down, or an annual sum as long as the Parliament will last, as may be preferred.

I am much obliged to your Lordship for the interest you express for the government; and although I am anxious to have this seat, I assure you that I think that we are not so hard run as not to be able to do without it. I beg that you will excuse the trouble I give you, and that you will

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[532.]

To the Lord Bishop of Cork.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 27th Dec., 1808.

I have received your Lordship's letter of the 25th, and I should be very sorry to put you to any inconvenience by urging you to go to England one moment sooner than you intended; but I should not do my duty by you or by the government if I did not inform you that the King's ministers are most anxious to have a full attendance in both Houses of Parliament on the first day of the session, and indeed that a full attendance on that day will be the criterion by which we shall be able to judge of events throughout the session.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[533.]

*To the Earl of Liverpool.**

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 27th Dec., 1808.

We have reports here of the death of Lord Sligo, an event which, if it has not occurred already, is very likely to occur

* Lord Hawkesbury became Earl of Liverpool on the death of his father, 17th December, 1808.

within a very short period of time. It is therefore most desirable that you should come to an early determination who is to be the next representative peer; for you may depend upon it that, if government should not have fixed upon the peer to whom they will give their support when the vacancy will have occurred, all the candidates will canvass, and it may be difficult eventually to gain a large majority for any one whom government should prefer.

I must again take this opportunity of pressing Lord Rosse upon your attention. The attendance and support of three members in the House of Commons depend upon his good will, and I think that in these times government cannot afford to be without them. Besides this, he has really the fairest claims of any of the candidates. He is a man of character, known to the public, with a large fortune, and great influence in the country; he resides in Ireland, and is much respected.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. John Foster.

[534.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 27th Dec., 1808.

I enclose a letter which the Board of Excise have sent up on the subject of the hearth-money arrangements. I am not a financier, but it occurs to me that the supervisors of hearths ought to make surveys of their districts once in every two years; that there ought to be a supervisor for two hearth-money walks; that the supervisor should charge the collectors under him with the amount he ought to collect from each individual; that the supervisor should have as well as his salary a per-centage on everything the collector should collect which the supervisor should have given him in charge; and that the collector should have a salary and a per-centage upon all he should collect which the supervisor should not have noticed, and should not have given him in charge.

I think that the Board of Excise have given the per-centage to the wrong person in their plan.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[535.]

To John Nugent Humble, Esq.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 28th Dec., 1808.

In consequence of your letter to Sir Edward Littlehales, stating that unregistered arms were found in the houses of Thomas and Edward Power, of Bokadoon, and that you had liberated those men after two days' confinement, I think it proper to acquaint you that by the Act of Parliament those persons were subject to a penalty of 10*l.* each, or in default of payment to two months' imprisonment, and the arms should have been sent to one of His Majesty's store-houses or to the officer commanding the nearest detachment of His Majesty's troops.

I send you herewith, for your information, extracts from the Acts relating to arms and gunpowder.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[536.]

*To Thomas Townshend, Esq.**

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 28th Dec., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 27th instant, and I have no objection to enter into a discussion in this manner upon its contents with a gentleman of your description.

I assure you that I have done everything in my power to forward your brother's objects in the navy; but I am sorry to say that it is much more difficult than you appear to imagine to obtain promotion for a gentleman in his situation. I have asked for the favour solely on the ground of his merits, and the good will of the government towards you. I never considered it in the nature of a reward for any service you might have rendered to the government; and if I could have so considered it, and had so stated it, I should have increased rather than diminished the difficulties which opposed themselves to the accomplishment of my object.

I am concerned that you should feel any dissatisfaction upon other points. I should have imagined that a person of your discernment and experience would have been aware, from what passed in Parliament in the last session, that I should propose

* A gentleman connected with the Dublin Press.

an arrangement such as that which has been lately adopted, and of which you complain; and indeed it would have been carried into execution at a much earlier period if I had not been abroad, and if Mr. Trail had not died.

In respect to the other-subject of complaint, I assure you that it has always been my wish that everything which I could do for you should be carried into execution in the way most likely to be advantageous to you; and if you'll send Mr. Webbe to me, and he will enter into details, I dare say that I shall be able to remove the inconveniences and difficulties of which you think you have to complain.

It may, however, upon a consideration of your own interests, appear to you most advantageous to discontinue that description of understanding which has subsisted between the government and you. Upon this point I can be no judge; but I can only tell you that, as I am fully aware of the advantages which the public interests have derived from the line which you have taken in the discussion of topics which have been the objects of public interest for the last two years, I shall be much concerned if you should see your own advantage in the adoption of any other line.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Enniskillen.

[537.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 29th Dec., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 26th. You are aware of all that I have done already for your uncle, Mr. Cole Hamilton. The only office that has been vacant since the Duke of Richmond came to Ireland has been offered to him, and it was declined; and I don't know at what period we shall have another.

The fact is, that there is now no office in Ireland which has not duties attached to it requiring constant attendance; and I fear that unless Mr. Cole Hamilton will accept an office of that description, he will get none.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[538.]

To J. C. Beresford, Esq.

MY DEAR BERESFORD,

Dublin Castle, 30th Dec., 1808.

I cannot give my consent to your being absent from Parliament at the commencement of the session, as I am certain that the great struggle will be on the first day. I feel much reluctance in asking you to go at a moment when I know you must relinquish business of great importance to yourself, but you may be assured I would not do so if it were not necessary; and your staying away will be a great disappointment to the Lord-Lieutenant and to me.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[539.]

To the Right Hon. Sackville Hamilton.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 31st Dec., 1808.

I enclose a letter from Mr. Parnell in respect to a line of navigation between Monasterevan and Maryborough, which it is possible that you may have under your consideration.

I have desired Mr. Townsend to call upon you, to talk to you respecting the Bill which I propose to bring into Parliament to continue your Board,* notwithstanding that the sum of money granted by the Parliament of Ireland will have been expended; and I shall be obliged to you if you will allow me to see you upon this subject any morning at about twelve o'clock.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[540.]

To Brigadier-General Campbell.

MY DEAR CAMPBELL,

Dublin Castle, 31st Dec., 1808.

I have received your letter of the 28th instant, and I am very sensible of the interest which you take in what concerns me. I think that I am almost out of all my old scrapes, and nearly ready to get into others.

The conduct of the magistracy throughout Ireland is indeed a subject of serious concern, and it is difficult to find a remedy for the inconvenience of which it is the principal cause. I

* Board of Inland Navigation.

have made inquiries as to the report which you have communicated to me respecting Mr. Power, and I shall be very much obliged to you if you will let me know the name of the magistrate who refused to act because another magistrate had given you the information of the offence upon which his assistance and interference were asked for, and because that magistrate would have the credit.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Lord Primate.

[541.]

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 31st Dec., 1808.

I have the honour to enclose to your Grace the opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor General on the case referred to them in respect to the chaplains of Irish Peers. From this opinion it would appear that the Irish Peers have a right to appoint chaplains, but that these chaplains are not exempted from residence in Ireland.

If your Grace should be desirous of having any further explanation upon this subject, and will let me know it, I will call for another opinion.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Harry Vane Tempest, Bart.

[542.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 31st Dec., 1808. .

I have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 20th instant, which I have laid before the Lord-Lieutenant; and I have been desired by his Grace to inform you that he cannot make arrangements for the disposal of any office till it will be actually vacant. I should be very happy to be instrumental in carrying into execution any wish of Lady Antrim's or of yours, but I cannot press his Grace to depart from a rule which is necessary to the good government of this country, and from which his Grace has derived essential advantages.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[543.]

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 31st Dec., 1808.

I am very much obliged to your Lordship for the interest which you take in what concerns me ; and I am happy to tell you that I am well satisfied with what has been made known to the public already by the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry.

I have laid your letter, which accompanied that to which I am now replying, before the Attorney-General, and I hope to be able to give you a satisfactory answer in the beginning of the week. You may depend upon it that I will not delay to do anything which you may think advantageous to the Church.

I am concerned to hear that you have been engaged in any unpleasant discussion with Lord ————. He is a most violent person, and has very little inclination to contradict what he has once asserted, notwithstanding that he may have had reason to believe that he was originally in error. Let me know whether I can be of any use to you upon this subject.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[544.]

To Arthur French, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 1st Jan., 1809.

I have received your letter, and I am much obliged to you for the interest which you take in my concerns.

In respect to your recommendation of Mr. Comyns, I have to inform you that the plan of increasing the number of supervisors has not yet been determined upon by the Lord Lieutenant ; but I have made a note of your wish in his favour, and if the plan under consideration should be adopted, I will not fail to make the Lord-Lieutenant acquainted with your wishes, and to recommend him to gratify them. I conclude that Mr. Comyns is a fit and proper person to be appointed a supervisor. I must mention to you, however, that under this plan it is not improbable but that the situation of a hearthmoney collector may be as lucrative as that of a supervisor of hearths, and you may, therefore, be desirous that Mr. Comyns should continue in his office of collector.

In respect to Captain Kelly's son, I have really done every-

thing in my power to get him admitted into a military school ; but I have not yet succeeded. I am not without hopes that I shall soon succeed in attaining that object. Let me know exactly the age of Captain Kelly's son, and his Christian name.

I am concerned that you should think that you have any reason to complain of any decision of the government in respect to the augmentation of the yeomanry in Roscommon. These decisions are invariably made upon general principles, upon which alone they can be justified, whether they go to an augmentation of the yeomanry or otherwise ; and I am convinced that when the decision of which you complain was made, the Lord-Lieutenant felt much concern that it was not in his power to attend to your recommendation upon that point.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To John Beckett, Esq.

[545.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 1st Jan., 1809.

Since I wrote to you last I have not been able to find any one acquainted with ———'s person, and I have been obliged to inquire for one at Belfast ; I have, therefore, omitted to send over the messenger.

In case you should discover ——— in London, I rather recommended you to have his person seized, if you can find anybody to identify him, as his name is included in the Banishment Act. You might afterwards allow him to leave the country, if you should think proper ; but to seize his person in the first instance would have a better effect here, and would operate as an example to deter others of the same description from coming on a similar mission to the King's dominions in a greater degree than merely to give him notice that it is necessary that he should quit the country.

I understand that ——— is likely to have communications with a Mr. ———, a merchant at Liverpool, and with the house of ———, of the same town. These are both Irishmen from Belfast, and I recommend that their letters and those from ——— should be looked at.

You will see that we have ordered a special commission into Limerick and Kerry, with every hope of advantage from the

measure. Nothing very important has occurred in the last week excepting the event of a *stranger* at Dungarvan, calling himself Captain ———, respecting whom there existed a good deal of suspicion, and with some foundation for it. He had papers with him, of which he denied all knowledge; but they will be proved to belong to him. I have desired that he might be detained and examined as a *stranger*, under the Insurrection Act, and that every precaution may be taken to ensure the proof of his papers, if they should contain anything important. We shall have copies of them in a day or two.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[546.]

To Lord Dufferin and Claneboy.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 2nd Jan., 1809.

I have received your Lordship's letter of the 30th December, and I am much concerned that you should imagine that the government has been otherwise than attentive to you in the arrangement lately made upon the vacancy of the Deanery of Dromore; for, considering to whom the vacancy occasioned by the preferment of Dean Mahon was given, and at whose recommendation and upon what grounds, I might have hoped that your Lordship would have been satisfied with it.

It is really impossible for the Lord-Lieutenant to make any engagement to your Lordship to give your brother preferment in the Church at any particular period.

Your Lordship must be aware of the circumstances which would expose such an engagement to the risk of being broken, and consequently the character of his Grace and of those who should be concerned with him in making it. His Grace is, however, informed of your Lordship's wishes, which he is very anxious to have an opportunity of gratifying, and they will be considered as they ought when an opportunity will offer.

I am much obliged to your Lordship for your personal civility to me, and am

Your most faithful and obedient servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Edward Elliott, Esq.

[547.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 4th Jan., 1809.

I have been desired by the Lord-Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th December to Sir Charles Saxton, and to express his Grace's approbation of the zeal you have manifested, and the activity with which you have persevered and at last succeeded in prevailing on Mr. Andrews to give information against the persons who committed the outrage upon him, and in apprehending, with the assistance of the Cappoquin yeomanry, three persons in one night. His Grace hopes that the success which has attended your zealous exertions upon this occasion will operate as an inducement to other magistrates in the county of Waterford to follow your example, and to endeavour to restore the tranquillity of their county.

His Grace has desired me to request that you would convey to Captain Brownin and the Cappoquin yeomanry the expression of his approbation of their conduct in the assistance which they have given to you.

I beg that you will warn Mr. Andrews of the necessity that he should take care of himself till he will have given evidence against the persons he has sworn to in the informations, and you will request the General officer commanding in the county of Waterford to take measures to provide for Mr. Andrews's security by placing one or two trusty soldiers in his house, if he should prefer residing there to removing into Waterford or any other town in which the King's troops are stationed.

The Cappoquin yeomanry being on permanent duty, have a right to be billeted on the farmers of the county; and I request to know from you the names of the farmers who have refused to receive them upon their production of billets signed by you.

His Grace the Lord-Lieutenant has desired me to express his concern that any of the Cappoquin yeomanry should have suffered by their late exertions to restore the tranquillity of their county; but he hopes that they will produce the wished for effect, and that the men will soon be enabled to discontinue them and to return to their homes.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[548.]

To the Marquess of Waterford.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 7th Jan., 1809.

A gentleman of the name of —— Usher, who lives at Cappagh, near Cappoquin, and who says he is possessed of a considerable property in that neighbourhood, has been here to apply to me to be made a justice of the peace of the county of Waterford; and as there is no magistrate in that part of the country, and an outrage of great magnitude has been committed within these few days near Ballinamult by a large body of people in arms, to prevent which the troops stationed there could not interfere as there was no magistrate, I beg leave to suggest to your Lordship to recommend Mr. Usher to the Lord-Chancellor to be appointed a magistrate of the county of Waterford, if you should be of opinion, upon further inquiry, that he is a fit person to be appointed to that office.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[549.]

To the Right Hon. John Villiers.

MY DEAR VILLIERS,

Dublin Castle, 9th Jan., 1809.

I have received your letter of the 20th December, and I assure you that it would give me great pleasure to be instrumental in forwarding any wish of yours. I am convinced, however, that it will not be possible to give Colonel Bayley a government in this country, because, in the first place, the Duke of York has taken to himself all the military governments, to which we have nothing to say; and, secondly, it will be no easy matter to convince the Secretary of State, or the Irish gentlemen who ask for everything, that it is proper to give one of those which might be supposed of a civil nature, and to be in the gift of the Lord-Lieutenant, to an officer of the Guards. Besides this, if such an office should fall during the Duke of Richmond's administration, and he should consider himself at liberty to divert it from the political objects of the day, I am afraid that he is not without claimants upon him, to whom he would wish to give it. However, if an opportunity should offer, I will not fail to make him acquainted with your wishes in favour of Colonel Bayley.

You will have read the Report of the proceedings of the

Court of Inquiry in the newspapers, and will have been equally astonished with those who attended the court, and probably with the members themselves, with this production. I shall say nothing of the opinions it contains, as they, like colours, are now matters of taste; but as far as it respects me, the evidence is falsely reported, garbled, or represented in false colours. I enclose you the narratives and statements which I put on minutes of the proceedings, in which you will see by anticipation a complete answer to Lord Moira; and I beg you to observe that when he wrote this paper he had before him the unanimous testimony of all the General officers that after the 21st of August there existed no means of preventing the French from crossing the Tagus.

There is no news here. I shall go to England for the meeting of Parliament, and mean to join the army as soon afterwards as I shall be allowed to go.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Lord Bishop of Derry.

[550.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 9th Jan., 1809.

I have received your Lordship's letter of the 7th. I apprehend that the sum of 5000*l.* is larger than we should be able to give for the seat at Dungannon, as I believe we have given lately 3000*l.* at most; but I write this day by express to my brother, Mr. Wellesley, upon the subject; and you shall have an answer as soon as I shall hear from him.

Nobody has had any knowledge of my correspondence with you upon this subject except the Lord-Lieutenant; and I now enclose all the letters I have received from you upon it.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Hon. Henry Wellesley.

[551.]

MY DEAR HENRY,

Dublin Castle, 9th Jan., 1809.

Before I received yours of the 4th I had written most urgent letters to all our friends to request them to attend on the first day of the session; and I enclose a list showing what will be

the probable state of attendance of the Irish members on both sides.

The Report of the Court of Inquiry is the most extraordinary document I have ever perused. I say nothing of opinions; for opinions in these days are like colours, matters of taste. But as far as respects me they have not stated even the facts correctly, and they have garbled the whole most terribly.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[552.]

To Lord Viscount Castlereagh.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 9th Jan., 1809.

As the Board of Inquiry have made their Report, it is now necessary for me to determine what I am to do. I am very desirous to avoid taking any steps which can embarrass the King's government, and particularly in reference to this country; but it is necessary that I should join the army if it should remain on service in Spain within a limited time.

I shall say nothing about the Report of the Board of Inquiry, but I shall be obliged to you if you will take the opinion of the King's ministers and let me know what line they propose to take respecting it in Parliament. Do they mean to consider it as conclusive, and on that ground to justify it, and all the measures of which the Report approves? or do they mean to leave the whole question to be scrambled for as it may suit those who may choose to mix in the scramble?

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[553.]

To the Directors-General of Inland Navigation.

GENTLEMEN,

Dublin Castle, 9th Jan., 1809.

The Lord-Lieutenant having, in consequence of the different letters and reports he had received from your board, taken into consideration the state of the funds applicable to the extension of inland navigation in Ireland, and having drawn the attention of His Majesty's confidential servants to this subject, with a view

to the adoption of certain measures to continue the works under the superintendence of your board, notwithstanding that the whole of the sum allotted for this purpose by the parliament of Ireland, by the 40th George III., had been either expended or appropriated, I have been directed by his Grace to enclose you copies of the correspondence which has passed between his Grace and the Secretary of State upon that subject, and to draw your attention thereto.

His Grace desires that you will from time to time report to him your opinion upon all proposals and plans for inland navigation which may be submitted to you, stating which of them should be recommended to the consideration of parliament, in what proportion the expense of executing such plans should be borne by the public, and upon what terms such proportion of the expense should be granted.

His Grace is confident that you are aware no works ought to be recommended by your board except such as are considered to be objects of considerable national importance; and his Grace desires that you will give the preference to the plans of inland navigation which are most likely in their effects to increase the tillage of Ireland, and to afford a cheap and easy communication with those parts of the country which are supposed to contain coal or iron, or other objects on which the industry of the people can be employed.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Manners.

[554.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 11th Jan., 1809.

I have just received your letter of Sunday, in answer to which I have only to refer you to mine of the 7th, from which you will see that the Lord-Lieutenant had actually appointed Mr. Robert Richards to be the assistant-barrister of Wexford before he had received your Lordship's recommendation of Mr. Mitford.

I will not, therefore, mortify his Grace by showing him your Lordship's letter of Sunday. I believe that the whole tenor of his Grace's government has been an endeavour not to make your Lordship "a cypher in the profession," but, as far as was

in his power, to assist your Lordship, and to increase your influence over a profession at the head of which you are so deservedly placed, much to the satisfaction and ease of His Grace's government, and to the public advantage; and I lament that any misconception of my letter should have induced you to think otherwise for one moment.

Your Lordship is probably not aware of the situation of this government. We are expected by the ministers in England to govern the country as it ought to be governed, and to dispose of the patronage to the best deserving; to secure a majority in both Houses of Parliament, and at the same time to grant the favours of the Crown to those who may have the ear of the ministers and solicit them in England. Mr. Mitford may have claims as a professional man to your Lordship's protection; but I don't know what Lord Redesdale has to claim from the government of Ireland; and I am very certain that if Lord Ely's claim to recommend to the Lord-Lieutenant a gentleman to fill the chair in Wexford (who, of course, it is understood, must be unexceptionable) had been disappointed in order to gratify Lord Redesdale, we should have lost Lord Ely's cordial and zealous support in the House of Commons with three members at this moment when they are most wanted, in the same manner as we must do without that of Lord Rosse, and probably of Lord Conyngham, with five more, in consequence of the attention given by the ministers to the claims of Lord Abercorn. It may be very proper to promote to the county chairs the candidates deemed the *most* deserving; it may also be very proper to attend to the claims of gentlemen residing in England for a share of the patronage of the government of Ireland; but, to use a vulgar phrase, "we cannot eat our cake and have our cake;" and if this system be persevered in, Ireland cannot be governed, and the ministers must not expect the support of the Irish members.

I have gone more fully into this subject than I at first intended. I certainly feel strongly what I have said; not on my own account, for I have no personal objects in this country, and have not recommended to the Lord-Lieutenant a person of any description excepting on public or political grounds; and it is a matter of entire indifference to me in what manner this country is governed. But I wish your Lordship to be aware of the state of the case, that you may not form a bad or an erro-

neous opinion of the Lord-Lieutenant or of his disposition. I enclose you a bulletin just received.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I just wish to mention to your Lordship that Mr. Ellis, who was promoted to the chair of Mayo, was found upon inquiry to have been nine years at the bar instead of four.

To John Bagwell, Esq.

[555.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 11th Jan., 1809.

I have received your letter of the 9th, and the Lord Lieutenant has desired me to tell you that he intends to offer a reward by proclamation for the discovery of the persons who have been guilty of the outrage committed on the house of Mr. Miles. It is obvious that when the disturbers of the public peace have dared to commit such an outrage at noon, within a mile of the town of Clonmel, the ordinary process of the law, administered as it is, is not sufficient to keep them in order.

His Grace the Lord Lieutenant has been most anxious to avoid proclaiming the disturbed districts under the Insurrection Act, from a conviction that if the magistrates and gentlemen of the county were willing to do their duty, the ordinary process of the law is sufficient to preserve the peace; and he still hopes that the examples which will be made in Limerick and Kerry, under the Special Commission, will operate on the people of Tipperary and Waterford, to which counties the Commission might be extended, if there should be any chance of convictions. But if these measures should fail, and as it is obvious that the gentlemen of the county have allowed matters to go so far that the people are now scarcely amenable to law, His Grace is not disposed to decline putting the Insurrection Act in force, if the gentlemen of the county should desire it, in the manner pointed out by the Act.

I must mention to you, however, my decided opinion that the same energy, activity, and union among the gentlemen of the county, which can alone render the Insurrection Act of any use, would be equally effectual to restore and preserve tran-

quillity, if applied under powers in their hands under the ordinary provisions of the law.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[556.]

To the Marquess of Waterford.

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 12th Jan., 1809.

I have received and laid before the Lord Lieutenant your Lordship's letter of the 9th, and his Grace has desired me to express his regret that the lower orders of the people in the county of Waterford should have manifested a disposition so hostile to the public peace. From the accounts which I have received from Clonmel, I should imagine that the same mob had on the same day attacked a house belonging to Mr. Miles, while he was at church at noon; and it is a matter of astonishment to me that a mob of that description should have been allowed to go over such an extent of country and to commit so many depredations in a county filled with troops, and that no step should have been taken, excepting under your Lordship's directions, to check them. There are plenty of troops in the counties of Waterford and Tipperary, and the General officers have orders to attend to the requisition of the magistrates for aid to preserve the peace. The rest must depend upon the energy, the activity, and the abilities of the gentlemen of the county in their capacity of magistrates.

The Lord Lieutenant has sent a special commission into the counties of Kerry and Limerick, and it might probably be attended with good effect to extend it to Waterford and Tipperary, if there should be any evidence which can tend to the conviction of the disturbers of the public peace; at all events, the example which we hope will be made in those counties will operate on the minds of all.

If, however, we should be disappointed in those expectations, and the disturbances should continue, it will rest with your Lordship and the gentlemen of the county whether you will address the Lord Lieutenant to proclaim the disturbed districts under the Insurrection Act. But I must tell you that the execution of this Act depends entirely upon the authority of the magistrates; and that the energy and activity on their

part, which can alone render that measure efficient, would restore and preserve tranquillity under the powers intrusted to them by the ordinary provisions of the law.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Stephen Dickson, Esq.

[557.]

MY DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 12th Jan., 1809.

I am very much obliged to you for your letter, and to the gentlemen of Limerick for their kindness to me. I shall be much flattered by the favourable opinion of the gentlemen of the county, in whatever terms they may deliver it, upon which I can say nothing.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Colonel O'Dell.

[558.]

DEAR SIR,

Dublin Castle, 12th Jan., 1809.

I am much concerned that by a mistake of Mr. Wyatt's you should have had the trouble of calling upon me this day when I was gone to Howth. I had hoped to have the pleasure of seeing you to-morrow, and still hope for that pleasure if you should not go to England to-night.

I told Mr. O'Dell my reason for postponing to recommend to the Lord Lieutenant that Mr. A. O'Dell should be appointed Sheriff of the county of Limerick, which appeared to me to be satisfactory to him, and, I might have hoped, would be satisfactory to you. The Lord Lieutenant and government, and not you, are responsible for the appointment of not a proper, but the most proper person to fill the office of Sheriff in Limerick in these disturbed times; and you must excuse me if, when my advice is to involve the responsibility of his Grace and myself, I endeavour to satisfy my mind by inquiries not from persons hostile to your interest, but from yourself and your friends.

As I shall hope that I shall see you to-morrow, I delay till then to give you the positive answer which you require, if you should still require it; but if you insist upon having it, I now reply that I cannot recommend the Lord Lieutenant to

appoint Mr. A. O'Dell to be the Sheriff of the county of Limerick in the ensuing year, as I am not satisfied that he is the most proper person to fill the office in these disturbed times.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

P.S. It occurs to me that the positive answer which you require refers to an application which you made for an office for another of your sons, in answer to which I have to tell you that there is no office vacant which could be given to him ; and the Lord Lieutenant declines to make any engagement to any gentleman for the disposal of an office till it will be vacant.

[559.]

To the Marquess of Donegal.

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 12th Jan., 1809.

I received, when in London, your Lordship's letter of the 21st of November, and lately one of the 29th December, relative to the Institution for Education proposed to be established at Belfast, and I had before had this subject under my consideration in the last session of Parliament upon a reference from his Grace the Lord Lieutenant. I have delayed till now, when upon the eve of my departure for England, to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letters, in hopes that I should be enabled to communicate to you the determination of the King's servants on the subject on which your Lordship was desirous of being made acquainted with their sentiments ; but, as I have not yet heard from them upon it, I am obliged to apologise to your Lordship for having so long delayed this letter ; and I beg to assure your Lordship that I will not fail to urge the Ministers to consider and decide upon the plan laid before them as soon as may be practicable.

I shall be much obliged to your Lordship if you will give directions that the prospectus of the Institution and copies of the papers connected with it may be sent to me to London.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Sheriff of the City of Waterford.

[560.]

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 12th Jan., 1809.

I have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 10th instant, and I have received the Lord Lieutenant's directions to applaud the zeal which you profess for the preservation of tranquillity within your bailiwick. I now enclose you extracts of different Acts of Parliament applicable to the state of disturbance which at present exists in the counties of Waterford and Tipperary, in which you will see the powers which the law has given to magistrates for the preservation of the peace.

I am much obliged to you for the information you have given me respecting the conduct of Mr. Power and Mr. Humble; and I shall be obliged to you if you will let me know the name of the magistrate who refused to take the information of the yeoman against the man who robbed him of his arms.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

P.S. You did not sign your letter to me; but as you describe yourself as the sheriff of the city of Waterford, I send you this answer.

To the Earl of Harrington.

[561.]

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 12th Jan., 1809.

I have it in command from the Lord Lieutenant to enclose to your Lordship a letter dated the 6th instant, which has been received from Colonel Sankey of the Dublin City Militia, together with the letter and memorial which accompanied it, by which it appears that the non-commissioned officers of militia intend to solicit government to put them, in certain instances, on an equal footing with the non-commissioned officers of the line.

In transmitting these papers to your Lordship, I am directed to observe that the services of the non-commissioned officers of the militia cannot be considered in the same light with the services of those of the line. 1st. The latter are not exposed to the hardships or the dangers to which the former are liable, from more extended service. 2ndly. When absent from their respective counties their families are provided for, whereas

those of the non-commissioned officers of the line do not enjoy similar advantages.

But as the subject is in itself important, and as the mode which seems to have been adopted for the purpose of ensuring a co-operation upon the occasion of all the non-commissioned officers of militia may encourage, amongst other impressions, a confident expectation that their application will be acceded to, it seems advisable that the attention of colonels of the militia should be called to the proceeding which is in progress, and at the same time to show them the unreasonable nature of the demand which it is in contemplation to make, and how desirable it is that each should exert his influence to prevent the circulation or adoption of the memorial alluded to by the non-commissioned officers of the battalion under his command.

It is, therefore, his Grace's desire that your Lordship will be pleased to take these points into consideration, and convey your Lordship's sentiments upon them to his Grace; and in the event of your Lordship's concurring in the opinion which his Grace entertains upon the subject, it may be advisable that your Lordship shall communicate with the Colonels of the several regiments accordingly.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

P.S. Your Lordship will be pleased to return the papers which are herewith transmitted.

J. Pollock, Esq., to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR,

Mountainstown, Navan, 12th Jan., 1809.

Since I returned here on Sunday last, I have received a book from Dublin, which I trust and hope you have seen: indeed, I cannot conceive it possible that a copy of it has not been procured for you long before this shall reach you, and therefore I feel it almost a trespass upon you to give you the trouble of this letter. However, lest by any chance you have not seen the book I allude to, I think it absolutely necessary to apprise you of it. It is entitled, 'Pieces of Irish History, illustrative of the Condition of the Catholics of Ireland, of the Origin and Progress of the Political System of the United Irishmen, and of their Transactions with the Anglo-Irish Government.' 'Published by William James MacNeven;' and importing to be 'New York, printed for Bernard Dornin, No. 136, Pearl Street, 1807.'

It contains 'An Introduction, by Mr. MacNeven. 2nd. Part of an Essay towards the History of Ireland, by T. A. Emmett. 3rd. Memoir or detailed Statement of the Origin and Progress of the Irish Union, delivered to the Irish Government by Messrs. Emmett, O'Connor, and MacNeven, August

4th, 1798. 4th. The Examination of W. J. MacNeven before the Secret Committee of the Lords, August 7th, 1798. 5th. Substance of Mr. Emmett's Examination before the last-mentioned Committee. 6th. Copy of a letter from Mr. Rufus King, the American Minister at London, to Henry Jackson, one of the State Prisoners, dated 23rd August, 1799. 7th. Two Letters from Mr. Emmett to Mr. King, in April, 1807. 8th. A Statistical Essay on the Population and Resources of Ireland, by W. J. MacNeven.'

Whether this book was originally printed in New York is for the present immaterial; it is now in print in Dublin, and no doubt will be circulated through the country with the most indefatigable zeal. My information says it is the precursor of a French invasion; and certainly the whole object of the book is calculated, and with great ability executed, in order to show the necessity of a separation of this country from England, and to procure a French army to be received here as allies. Your means of information are no doubt most ample; it may, however, not be improper in me to say to you that if you have Cox (who keeps a small book-shop in Anglesea Street), he can let you into the whole object of sending this book to Ireland at this time; and further, if you have not Cox, believe me that no sum of money at all within reason would be misapplied in riveting him to the government. I have spoken of this man before to Sir Edward Littlehales and to Sir Charles Saxton. He is the most able, and, if not secured, by far the most formidable man that I know of in Ireland.

The talk we have had about Catholic Emancipation is wholly, with the great body of the Catholics, a cloak to cover their real object. Their objects are the political power, the Church estates, and the Protestant property in Ireland. If Bonaparte could bring the Pope to the top of Tara Hill, and guillotine him there in the face of day, he would not have ten followers and friends the less for it. I am as certain of this fact as I am of my own existence.

I am ever, my dear Sir,

Your most obliged and devoted

J. POLLOCK.

Information transmitted to Sir A. Wellesley.

12th Jan., 1809.

Stockdale informs me that the Roman Catholics are immediately to have a meeting on the subject of presenting a petition to Parliament for emancipation. A requisition was signed for the purpose: it is, notwithstanding, doubtful whether they will determine to petition or not. The men of property are for petitioning; the men of no property scout the idea. The former acknowledge they would themselves be now against petitioning, from the fate their applications have met with, were it not for the tyranny and cruelty of Bonaparte; and on that account, if emancipation can be obtained, they contend that British is preferable to French connexion. From all I can learn, this point has been under discussion a considerable time past; and their petitioning or not petitioning will determine whether the majority are for England or Bonaparte. The turbulent men of no property represent emancipation as beneficial only to the wealthy classes; a description of persons they are always fond of traducing. They are loud in reprobating them at present, and swear they are more destitute of feeling for the pea-

santry than their Protestant equals. One man of the name of Dowdall, near Trim, is a subject of particular censure. They affirm he is worth seven or eight thousand pounds a-year, and that he served on the 1st of November last all his labourers with notice that until the 25th of next March he would allow them but sixpence a-day, although he charges them at the rate of six or seven guineas an acre for their potato-ground; and they ask, "Can it be credited that such men feel for the suffering poor, whom they thus grind without pity or remorse?" All their struggling for emancipation, they say, is to gratify their own ambition to sit in Parliament.

It is remarkable that almost every day the disaffected are reporting disastrous news as having arrived from Spain, although such rumours are dissipated by the next mails. Three days ago Mr. Tandy met Cox and told him he was at the Castle, and was told that government had received an express announcing the total defeat of the British. This morning it has been current amongst them that part of our cavalry have been cut to pieces, and the rest, with two General officers, made prisoners: several told Stockdale of it as a fact. Indeed, of the success of Bonaparte they never doubted. They predicted all along that he would crush at his pleasure the English, and the party they raised against him in Spain. They implicitly believe, or pretend to believe, that the great majority of the Spanish population are with him, and that they must be so disposed on the principle of self-interest. All who oppose him are called the English faction. All the decrees issued by Bonaparte at Madrid are extolled for wisdom and benevolence.

Although there has not been any communication between the disaffected and the French for a considerable time, yet the spirits and the hopes of that party were never higher. They rejoice at the recent events in Spain, and are most confident that Ireland is one of the nearest objects to the heart of Bonaparte. I have the strongest assurances from Stockdale that no person has yet been here, but that emissaries are every day expected. The apparent neglect of Bonaparte for a long time past is attributed to the important concerns in which he has been engaged, and which will ultimately facilitate the grand object he has in view.

[562.]

To the Lord Mayor.

MY LORD,

Dublin Castle, 14th Jan., 1809.

I have perused the petition of the Commissioners of Wide Streets to the House of Commons and the papers which accompanied it, and I will give my attention to any plan which may be brought forward which can tend to the improvement of the city of Dublin.

I acknowledge, however, that I conceive that houses in Dublin are already as highly taxed as they ought to be; and that it would probably be advisable to be prepared with some other mode of raising the necessary funds.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Rosse.

[563.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 14th Jan., 1809.

Since I had the pleasure of seeing your Lordship yesterday, the Lord Lieutenant has received letters from His Majesty's Ministers, by which his Grace is informed that they consider themselves bound by an engagement made by the late Mr. Pitt to give the support which government can give to the claim of Lord Mountjoy to be the representative Peer in the vacancy occasioned by the death of the late Marquess of Sligo. His Grace has at the same time desired me to inform you that he is happy to have it in his power to pledge to your Lordship the support of government to your claims upon the next vacancy which may occur.

I have the honour, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Bishop of Derry.

[564.]

MY DEAR LORD,

Dublin Castle, 14th Jan., 1809.

I received an answer from my brother last night to the letter which I wrote to him to inquire what sum could be got for the seat at Dungannon, and he answers me 3000 guineas is the highest. He thinks, however, that 5000*l.* might be got if the possession of the seat were secured for six or seven sessions.

I fear that neither proposition will be as advantageous to your brother as what is offered to him by another person, and I can scarcely expect that he can forego his own advantage so far as to accept our offer.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I go to London to-morrow, and hope to hear from you upon this subject as soon as may be convenient to you.

To Colonel Gordon.

[565.]

MY DEAR GORDON,

London, 22nd Jan., 1809.

You will have heard of the death of poor Anstruther, which I doubt not will have grieved you and Lord Harrington as

much as it has me. He is a great loss to us in Ireland, and it will be very difficult to replace him. It has occurred to me that ——— will look to the office of Adjutant-General; and I acknowledge that, knowing him as I do, and feeling the inconvenience of having one of the family already upon our staff, I am anxious to avoid that of having another in a similar confidential situation. I wish, therefore, that if you think you can do it with propriety, you would suggest to Lord Harrington the expediency of recommending an officer himself to fill this situation; and if you will let me know who it is (provided it be not ———), I will do everything here to facilitate his appointment.

I don't think that ——— would be a proper man; he is not of sufficient calibre in the army, and is not the kind of man who ought to be Adjutant-General. I should therefore suggest Murray to Lord Harrington as being in every way the best qualified, and one for whom he would most probably obtain the situation.

I have already sounded the ministers about doing something for Anstruther's widow, and I shall be much obliged to you if you will let me know whether his family are in such a situation as to render such an arrangement desirable or necessary to Mrs. Anstruther's comfort. If they should be so, I think it probable that I shall be able to succeed in getting something for her. But I wish you not to say anything about it till I shall be certain.

You see the account of the action at Corunna. I was certain that nothing could save the army but an attack by the French; and it is only to be lamented that we have lost two such valuable men as Sir John Moore and Sir David Baird. The latter, I conclude, cannot live.

Ever, my dear Gordon, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[566.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 23rd Jan., 1809.

I have received, and am obliged to you for, your letter of the 20th by express. I think that the Chancellor's account of

the county of Waterford is exaggerated, and I shall be obliged to you if you will let me know anything authentic that you may hear upon the same subject. If all the yeomen had been robbed of their arms, the Brigade-Major must have reported the circumstance.

Sir Edward Littlehales entertains the notion that the stranger at Tullow is the swindler known to the Collector-General. But that is by no means certain; and I recommend you to send for him to Dublin unless you are convinced it is the same person.

I think that you will do well to discharge Captain Fletcher.

Take down a memorandum that Mr. Comyns is to be a supervisor of hearthmoney, at the recommendation of Mr. French, of French Park, the member for Roscommon; likewise that Lord Mountnorris's friend, whose name is in the Lord-Lieutenant's book of applications, is to be one.

Pray desire Mr. Taylor to search and inquire how the King's plate, which had been given to the city of Derry, was transferred to the Curragh, because I want to give it back again to the city of Derry.

I enclose a letter from Mr. Echlin in respect to the state of the county about the Naul. He spoke to you and to me upon the subject referred to in this letter when I was in Ireland, and it appears to me that the only thing which can be done is to find out some active and bold man residing in that neighbourhood, and request the Chancellor to make him a magistrate. I have not seen Mr. Bagwell's letter in which you mention that he "narrates" that the person wounded by Lord Waterford's chaplain had been lodged in Clonmel gaol.

Don't allow Lord Farnham to interfere with the Sheriff of Cavan.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. W. Saurin.

[567.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 24th Jan., 1809.

The claim of Lord Dunsany to certain advowsons, upon which subject I had some conversation with you before I left Ireland, appears to be one of some importance, and likely to involve, in the decision upon it, the patronage of the Crown within the Pale

to a very great extent. I therefore wish to draw your attention to the consideration of this subject in a very particular manner, and I enclose, for your private information and consideration, a letter which I have received upon it from the Bishop of Meath, which contains one fact and one point of law in a part which I have marked in the margin, deserving further elucidation.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[568.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 24th Jan., 1809.

I received your letter at a late hour yesterday.

I think that Sir Erasmus Burrowes ought to be the Sheriff of Kildare, and you had better appoint him without loss of time.

You will do well to have Fitzgerald brought up to Dublin. He is in the Banishment Act, as well as I recollect, or there is in the power of government such evidence against him as would convict him if he were to be tried. At all events he ought to be brought up to Dublin and to be examined at the Castle, and let Trevor and others see him in order to ascertain whether he has not passed in Ireland under some other name.

There is no objection to tell Luke White that if there should be an election for a member of Parliament in Leitrim during the current year, and his son should be disposed to stand as a candidate, the Lord-Lieutenant will allow him to resign his office of Sheriff.

I will converse with Mr. Foster respecting the claim of the Bank of Ireland.

I have also received your letter of the 19th of January. I beg that you will send me General Campbell's letter respecting Mr. Irvine. I had a long correspondence with Mr. Trail respecting the arrest of ——— in Scotland, which I will look over in order to ascertain what passed between him and Mr. Edwards, and I will then give you an answer respecting Mr. Edwards's claim.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[569.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 24th Jan., 1809.

I enclose a note which I have received from Mr. Perceval, with a letter and its enclosure from Lady Elliot.

I conclude that you imagined that Mrs. Ross had some means of living besides the sum she received from the Concordatum, and you discontinued the grant to her on the principle on which you discontinued it to others who had other means of livelihood. That is certainly the principle on which a charity of this description should be granted; but the Concordatum has never been considered in that light in Ireland, and I fear that the people to whom you may have granted a part of it will not continue to receive their share, and that the old claimants will get it again as soon as you will quit the government. I would, therefore, recommend you to grant any sums which may be at your disposal hereafter to the old claimants who have been struck off, so as to restore the list to its old state.

Lady Elliot's friend Mrs. Ross appears to be an object at all events.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Right Hon. S. Perceval.

[570.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 24th Jan., 1809.

I have perused Lady Elliot's letter to you and its enclosure, and I have to inform you that her Ladyship is mistaken respecting the nature of the sums received from the Concordatum Fund in Ireland. These sums are granted annually; and in the last year, during my absence in Portugal, the Duke of Richmond revised the claims of all those who received any part of the fund, and he discontinued the grants to those who he had reason to believe had other means of living.

It is probable that he had reason to believe that Mrs. Ross was of this description; but I send him Lady Elliot's letter, and I doubt not that, when he discovers his mistake, he will grant a part of the Concordatum to Mrs. Ross upon the first opportunity.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[571.]

To the Earl of Gosford.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 25th Jan., 1809.

I am much concerned that, your Lordship having been disappointed in your expectations of receiving the support which government may be able to give you in your views upon a seat in the House of Lords as a representative of the Irish Peerage, you should have written me the letter of the 20th, which I have received this day.

I perfectly recollect all that has passed between your Lordship and me upon this subject, and that I told you I wished you success, and that I would inform the Secretary of State and the Duke of Portland of your wishes; and I also recollect that in a second, and I believe a third interview, which I had with your Lordship upon this subject, not only I did not hold out to you any prospect of early success in the attainment of your object, but I distinctly apprised you of my opinion that there were Peers who I thought would be preferred to your Lordship. This is what your Lordship calls "not experiencing the same disposition to support you which you had formerly done," notwithstanding that it was distinctly explained to your Lordship originally, and has been since, that the Irish government, and I particularly, was not authorised to do more than state your wishes and your claims, and express their own personal good wishes for your success, but that the power of gratifying them must depend upon others.

I don't know what assurances your Lordship has received from the Duke of Portland or others in whose power it may be to gratify your wishes; but this I know, that you have received none from me or from the Duke of Richmond on which you can found any complaint of disappointment occasioned by his Grace or me, or of ill treatment.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[572.]

To Ed. A. MacNaghten, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 26th Jan., 1809.

I have received your letter and your papers, and have perused your memorial, which I return to you. The strong

feature in your case, as you represented it to me, that which in a particular manner gives you a claim to be defended by government, is that an officer of government (the Lord Chancellor) having called upon you to give him a *private and confidential* opinion on the character of a magistrate, communicated to that magistrate the opinion which you had given; and by these means exposed you to, and even occasioned, the action from which you desire to be defended.

I don't think this strong fact is sufficiently brought out in your memorial, and I enclose it to you for correction in that particular: in all others it will answer perfectly.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[573.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 27th Jan., 1809.

I received only this day your letter of the 23rd. I hope that the special commission at Limerick will have a good effect; but I acknowledge that I should think from the Solicitor's account that its effect would not be so good as he imagines it will be. I hope that the Lord-Lieutenant will persevere in his determination not to pardon the man recommended by the Solicitor unless he should be recommended by the Judge who tried him. Indeed with any consistency in the measures of his own government he cannot pardon him without referring his case to the consideration of the Judge; but I would not recommend him to take even that step unless he should have better grounds for it than those stated by the Solicitor.

It is evident that the accounts of General Campbell and of the Lord Chancellor are drawn from the same source, viz., Brigade-Major Crawford of the yeomanry, who, whatever may be the real state of the case, is the worst authority in the county of Tipperary. It is clear from Brigade-Major Crawford's and Brigade-Major Gahan's accounts (I am now writing in answer to the letters transmitted by you and Sir Edward Littlehales) that the arms taken away from yeomanry soldiers by the banditti consist of two stand in both counties, instead of the whole of the yeomanry in Waterford having been disarmed, as reported by the Chancellor. My opinion upon

the state of affairs in both counties is, that the General officer commanding in each should be desired to call out such portion of the yeomanry as he might think proper to give security to, the arms of the yeomanry, which ought to be collected; those of each corps in one spot in the first instance; and, in the second, to call out such further portions of the yeomanry of each county as might be necessary to enable him to keep the peace.

You must beware of the measure of making the captains, and even the field officers, of the militia magistrates before you know who they are, and their characters. This is a measure which I would recommend the Lord-Lieutenant not to resort to till he will have proclaimed any county, or a district of a county, under the Insurrection Act. This law is the *ultima ratio*, and must be made effectual; and whenever and wherever we put it in execution, we must fill the county with good and efficient troops, cavalry, infantry, and artillery, and with good and efficient magistrates, officers as well as others, to produce that effect. But in ordinarily disturbed times it won't do in any part of Ireland to take even all the field officers, much less all the captains of any regiment of militia, and make Justices of the Peace of them: some might possibly be made with advantage, but this must depend not only upon their own characters, upon their efficiency and abilities, but upon the circumstances of the place in which they may happen to be stationed.

Stearne Tighe's letter refers, in my opinion, to a serious question. If Mr. Arthur Hill Pollock is an attorney and clerk of the Crown on the circuit, I believe he cannot by law be sheriff; and at all events I fancy that the practice of the country would not allow of the appointment. Speak to the Attorney-General upon this subject, and ask him whether I am right. If Pollock cannot by law be the sheriff on the grounds above stated, and more at large by Stearne Tighe, he ought not to be appointed; and if appointed, Pollock senior should be sent for and required to desire his son to resign. If he should hesitate, the interference of the Chief Justice should be requested to prevail with him; and if this should not answer, young Pollock should be dismissed from his offices under government, which are held to disqualify him either by law or in opinion from holding the office of sheriff.

If there should be hesitation on the part of Pollock to resign the office of sheriff for his son after, the Chief Justice's

interference, you may send him this part of my letter, and tell him that as I have not a recollection of the county of Meath, I beg that he will mention the name of a gentleman who is a fit and proper person to be sheriff of Meath in the ensuing year; if he be upon the return, so much the better.

Write an answer to Stearne Tighe according to the ultimate determination upon this subject.

Let me know who are the candidates against Mountjoy, and who vote against him, that I may make an exertion in his favour.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I was the person who recommended that young Pollock should be the sheriff of Meath, but I certainly did not know at the time of his disqualification.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[574.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 28th Jan., 1809.

I enclose a memorial for the Lord-Lieutenant, which I beg you will present to him, and recommend him to refer it to the consideration of the Chancellor, the Chief Judges, and the Attorney and Solicitor General. The view of this reference is this: first, that they should state whether Mr. Moore is entitled to anything, or, in other words, whether he and his father have not been paid for putting the register in the state in which it is, and whether it does not now belong to the public; secondly, supposing it does not belong to the public, whether it is necessary that the public should have it; and thirdly, what price the public shall pay for it.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[575.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 28th Jan., 1809.

I have just received your letter of the 25th. I will write to you this night or to-morrow morning respecting the hearth-money establishment, and the question respecting the persons recently appointed to situations in the Customs.

I have had some conversation with Mr. Foster respecting the state of the distilleries in Ireland ; and I believe that we shall take off the restriction upon the distillation of grain in that part of the kingdom immediately.

I hope that the Lord-Lieutenant will not allow Lord Annesley* to depart from the rule laid down for regulating the promotions in the Excise. In the present instance some advantage might be derived from promoting the two gaugers he has recommended, but none to compensate for the disadvantage which will result from the system of jobbing which will go on at the Board of Excise after we shall have broken through our rule.

How is ——— to get his 300*l*.? We have no secret service money, and cannot give this sum out of the Treason Fund. I don't understand how 6-pounders which were at Belfast could have been consigned to the Carron Company, and could now be in the Bog of Allen. How does Pollock explain this?

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[576.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 28th Jan., 1809.

I enclose a letter or memorial, and other papers delivered to me by Mr. MacNaghten, on the subject of an action which has been brought against him by a Mr. Leckey, of the county of Antrim, for a libel, which consisted in a confidential memorial presented by Mr. MacNaghten to the late Chancellor Ponsonby, in answer to a "private and confidential" letter from the Chancellor, in which memorial Mr. MacNaghten represented certain facts against Mr. Leckey, to induce the Chancellor to dismiss Mr. Leckey from the commission of the peace.

Mr. MacNaghten's object, in his memorial to the Lord-Lieutenant, is to have the expenses of his defence paid by the Crown, to which I think him entitled, on the ground that the cause of the action was his confidential representation to the Chancellor, at the Lord Chancellor's request, and that the Lord Chancellor afterwards betrayed him. I beg you, however, to

* Earl Annesley was Chief Commissioner of the Board of Inland Excise and Taxes in Ireland.

lay these papers before the Lord-Lieutenant, and take his Grace's pleasure upon them. I recommend also that you should inquire in the office, and from Mr. Kemmis, the Crown Solicitor, whether it has been usual to defray the expense of actions brought against individuals under such circumstances, and let me know the result.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Hon. C. Jenkinson.

[577.]

DEAR JENKINSON,

London, 28th Jan., 1809.

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Solicitor-General received this evening, giving an account of a desperate outrage committed near Listowell on the night of the day on which two persons convicted at the special commission were executed in the neighbourhood. I cannot see in this outrage any circumstances which give ground for hope (as the Solicitor does) that the examples made by the special commission have not failed to produce their effect. There are numbers of the same description with the others, viz., of persons likely to give their testimony before the special commission at Tralee. I likewise enclose two letters from the county of Tipperary.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Hon. C. Jenkinson.

[578.]

DEAR JENKINSON,

London, 28th Jan., 1809.

I enclose papers received from Ireland last night. I conclude that Sir Charles Saxton wrote you the Chancellor's Report on the state of the counties of Waterford and Tipperary. The Chancellor has been lately in those counties, and made his report from the same authority as General Campbell has his, viz., the Brigade-Major of yeomanry Crawford. I know that this gentleman's accounts cannot be depended upon; and it is obvious now that he wishes to be relieved from his ordinary duty and to gallop about the country at the head of parties of yeomanry.

There is no doubt that the county of Tipperary is in a very bad state ; but Mr. Bagwell knows that government have no objection to put in execution the Insurrection Act, if that measure should be necessary ; and I imagine that he is now employed in making inquiries and ascertaining the sentiments of the principal gentlemen of the county upon the subject.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[579.]

To Sir Charles Saaton, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 29th Jan., 1809.

I now proceed to give you my opinion upon the two points referred to my consideration in your letter.

In regard to the officers of the Customs appointed since the year 1804, you may consider it as a decided principle that all those appointed by the Duke of Richmond are to have only the salaries which will be attached to their offices. Either they had notice each of them, when he was appointed, that fees would be abolished, and that no officer would be allowed to take more than his salary ; or if any one had not that special notice, he had a general notice arising from an understanding that it was the intention of the government to abolish the receipt of fees in the Customs. This intention was manifest in the first session after the administration was formed, by bringing in a Bill to abolish fees, and provide funds for the payment of the salaries and compensations which it would be necessary to give the officers. The Bill passed the Commons, and was thrown out in the Lords on some question of form ; but the principle of the measure was approved of by both Houses of Parliament, and was carried into execution in the following, the last session, by the Act which abolishes fees.

The officers therefore appointed since the year 1804, since the Duke of Richmond's government has been formed, can have no claim to more than the salary which it will be deemed expedient to annex to their office.

I think that a consideration of the case of those appointed previous to the Duke of Richmond's government would lead to the same result. The question whether fees should be abolished or not has been in discussion ever since the year 1804,

and the officers of the Customs must have known that they would ultimately be abolished, and that the result of the inquiry of 1804 would give the standard of the compensation to be given to the several officers. But I acknowledge that to consider it necessary to continue for ever to an officer of the Customs the high profits which he has enjoyed for four or five years, is to carry the principle of compensation rather farther than persons on this side of the water will bear its being carried, or than it ought to be carried. I think, therefore, that all persons appointed since 1804 ought to be satisfied with the salaries annexed to their offices. To this, however, an exception ought to be made in favour of those persons who have been appointed to offices from other offices, under the notion that those offices to which they were appointed were of a certain value greater than that of the offices which they had left. These persons ought to have compensation for the loss of fees calculated upon the returns to the Commissioners in the year 1804.

I enclose the hearthmoney papers. In my opinion the arrangement of appointing fifty supervisors, I mean thirty in addition to those already appointed, ought to be adopted, viz., one to two hearthmoney collectors' walks of the large walks, and one to three walks of the small.

The salaries of the supervisors to be 200*l.* per annum, and the Lord-Lieutenant's intention to be stated of rewarding their extraordinary services and exertions with one guinea per diem upon the recommendation of the Board of Excise when any extraordinary service is performed, or any extraordinary exertion used, which service and exertion must be specially stated by the Board.

The hearthmoney collectors to have the salaries according to the scale proposed in the letter upon the sums collected between the 25th of March and 29th of September. The supervisor, as the charging officer, will of course report by the 25th of March what ought to be collected, and if the collector does not collect the whole by the 29th of September, another officer to be sent into the walk on that day to collect the arrear. This officer to be paid ten per cent. upon what he will collect from the salary of the collector who ought to have made the collection by the 29th of September. In case any collector

should collect before the 29th September more than the supervisor will have given him in charge, he is to have a percentage of ten per cent. from the public on such collection, and the Commissioners to notice to government his conduct and that of the supervisor of the walk who had omitted to give him the whole in charge.

In respect to the indoor office, my opinion is, first, that Mr. Talbot should have 250*l.* per annum upon incidents; second, that in addition to the establishment as proposed by the Board for the future, there should be an assistant examiner, with a salary of 350*l.* per annum. That Mr. Wray, the Inspector-General, should be offered the office of Examiner, with compensation on incidents for his other emoluments; that if he should accept, Mr. Jocelyn Waller should be first clerk, Mr. Winder continue the assistant Examiner, whether Mr. Wray accepts or not; but if Mr. Wray does not accept, Mr. Jocelyn Waller to be the Examiner.

The arrangement as proposed by the Board for the three hearthmoney collectors with large salaries to be adopted; and the Board to be informed that the Lord-Lieutenant will have no objection to the employment of these gentlemen experimentally as Inspectors-General, with one guinea a day while so employed.

The hearthmoney collectors and supervisors of hearthmoney to be gaugers, and to be instructed as such, but not to be on the common list of gaugers and surveyors of the Excise.

I enclose with the letter from the Board of Excise a paper of remarks from Mr. Foster, and I beg that you will attend to his suggestions in the instructions upon this subject as far as they may be in conformity with those in this letter.

I enclose the names of two persons who, Mr. Foster wishes, should be supervisors. Pray don't forget the names of Mr. Comyns, recommended by Mr. French; of Lord Mountnorris's friend; of a person recommended by the Bishop of Kilmore for Sneyd. Their names are in the Duke's application book.

I wish you would send me over the names of the supervisors to be appointed, stating who recommended them, that I may see whether we have neglected any to whom in the present times it is necessary to attend.

I will not recommend to the Lord-Lieutenant that Mr.

Lovett should have 800*l.* per annum, notwithstanding the recommendation of Mr. Foster and Lord Annesley.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Send the enclosed to Lord Roden, who was to be in Dublin on the 1st of February.

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

[580.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 30th Jan., 1809.

I have just received your letter of the 18th, in answer to which I have to assure you that government will proceed, in respect to the advowsons claimed by Lord Dunsany, with all the caution which the consideration of such a subject deserves; and at all events nothing will be done, or indeed can be done, to affect the tenure of the clergymen now in possession of the preferments in question.

The opinions of the Crown lawyers both in England and in Ireland are clearly in favour of the right of Lord Dunsany; but in a case of this description, likely to affect the patronage of the Crown very extensively, I have thought it desirable to enter more fully into the subject than I should have done otherwise: I have directed that a search might be made in order to ascertain the facts on which the Crown lawyers have given their opinions; and of course no acknowledgment can be made of the right of Lord Dunsany which would go to deprive the Crown of its patronage without a reference to, and the consent of His Majesty.

I think that your Lordship and I agree nearly in opinion upon this subject, that nothing can deprive the present incumbents of their preferments; that if Lord Dunsany really has the right, he ought to enjoy it; but that we ought not to relinquish the patronage of the Crown without every inquiry, and His Majesty's consent.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[581.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 1st Feb., 1809.

I have received your letters of the 27th and 28th. I am aware that Mr. Elchin is the clergyman living near the Naul whose house was attacked, which he defended so ill. I am glad to find that the gang of which he complained has been so completely broken up by the vigilance of the police.

The measures adopted in respect to the Insurrection Act are quite correct; I will try to see Lord Liverpool upon it this day.

Upon the subject of rewards to be given for information in the county of Clare, mentioned in your letter of the 28th, I refer you to my letter to Sir Edward Littlehales, written in November last. I see no objection to allow the magistrates to give rewards wherever they may be deemed necessary, under the restrictions stated in that letter; but this power is liable to great abuses in their hands, and would soon grow into a mode of acquiring profit, and it must be given cautiously, and a strict account must in every instance be called for.

I will speak to Mr. Foster upon the claims of the clerks of the collector of Cork, and of other persons in a similar situation, to compensation in lieu of fees under the Act of Parliament.

Mr. Foster asked me yesterday whether any measures were in the contemplation of the government for increasing the fees of the solicitors of the Excise for doing the law business, and I told him none that I knew of. I observe in the abstract of correspondence from your office a reference to the Commissioners of Inquiry on a claim for losses incurred by the Solicitors of the Excise in consequence of the Union, and I conclude that this is the subject to which he refers. Pray let me know what this reference is. The claims for the losses by the Union are viewed with great jealousy by Parliament. The Board of Claims for Union Compensations was put an end to some years ago, and I doubt whether anything can be given upon a report from the Commissioners of Inquiry upon this subject.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Upon looking at the abstract again, I find that the letter of the 24th January was to Mr. MacKoy, to require him to lay before the Board of Inquiry the documents on which the compensation had been granted to the Solicitors of Customs and Excise. To what can Mr. Foster refer?

To the Duke of Richmond.

[582.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 1st Feb., 1809.

I received your letter of the 26th on the day before yesterday.

I don't think that we shall want our strength in Parliament till Monday the 13th of this month, on which day the Spanish question will be discussed. I shall be much obliged to you, therefore, if you will urge all our friends to come over by that time. I will enclose in this letter, if I can make it out in time, a list of those members still in Ireland.

The greater the number of candidates for the peerage the better. We must only take care in that case to make our friends promise to vote for Mountjoy in case the person to whom they engaged themselves should decline. I see no objection to declaring even now that Lord Rosse is to be the next peer.

I don't know whether the cabinet have met respecting the Presbyterians. The difficulty is with Canning; and I think that you would do well to write to him, and point out the error under which he labours in his consideration of all questions in relation to Ireland, and particularly in thinking that this small grant to the seceders from the Synod of Ulster will create a jealousy on the part of the Roman Catholics. They to a man look at higher game; and they would view this grant in no other light than as a measure of political wisdom adopted by their adversaries, and likely to strengthen the Protestant cause by regulating and attaching to the King's government a most powerful party in the north of Ireland. The benefits to be derived from the measure are not speculative. We know by experiment that similar benefits and arrangements have attached to the cause of government the Presbyterians of the north of Ireland, who were the most disloyal of the King's subjects; and there is every reason to believe that the measure proposed would complete that which was so well begun in respect to them.

You will have read with astonishment what passed in Parliament about the Duke of York. Between ourselves, I believe it will be proved that Mrs. Clarke did receive large sums of money; and it was generally understood that applications to her were likely to reach the Duke, and to be successful. I

understand also that she has in her possession a letter or letters from the Duke adverting to the receipt of money by her. He says this letter referred to the receipt of the allowance which he gave her. I am positively certain that the Duke could not have been aware of her selling his favours: whether we shall be able to prove it or not, is another question; but we shall be able to prove that the business of his office is conducted in the most regular manner, and that everything has been done by him to prevent the clandestine and irregular traffic in commissions.

I will apprise you from time to time of the progress of this interesting inquiry.

I enclose you a letter from Colonel Fitzgerald. He wants for his friend a living of two or three hundred a-year; and I told him that I was sure you would be glad to consider his claim when there would be an opportunity. He is a good member of parliament, and not exorbitant in his demands, or difficult to satisfy.

Lady Edward dined with me yesterday, and is very well.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

P.S.—I have just received your letter of the 29th. I have no idea that I shall be employed on service.

[583.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 2nd Feb., 1809.

I have received your letter of the 30th, and its enclosures.

I agree with you in thinking that there is nothing very extraordinary in the state of the county of Tipperary as it is represented by Mr. Bagwell. I recommend that you should tell him, in answer to his letter, first, that the Lord-Lieutenant cannot give a power to the magistrates to canton upon emergency the King's troops where they may think it necessary. Such a power in their hands would disperse the army into 500 different quarters, in the houses of every gentleman of the country: secondly, inform him that he and the magistrates of the county of Tipperary will form their own opinion of the necessity of proclaiming any districts under the Insurrection

Act; and if they should be of opinion that they ought to be so proclaimed, they must address the Lord-Lieutenant according to the form prescribed by the Act, supporting their opinion by such facts and depositions on oath as they may think likely to induce the Lord-Lieutenant and the Privy Council to attend to their wishes.

Mr. Bagwell has been already apprised by me that the Lord-Lieutenant has no intention to refuse to put in force the Insurrection Act, if it be quite certain that it is necessary to adopt that measure in order to restore and secure tranquillity; and he may as well again receive the same assurance.

I don't think that Mr. Bagwell will be able to make anything of the prosecution at the assizes of the men who murdered the woman.

I trust that the Lord-Lieutenant will not have consented to Colonel Crosbie's proposition, as reported by the Solicitor-General.

I have prepared Lord Liverpool to expect the Lord-Lieutenant's despatch on the necessity of proclaiming, under the Insurrection Act, some of the disturbed districts.

I think nothing of the confession to Wilcocks.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[584.]

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 3rd Feb., 1809.

Some time last year the Lord-Lieutenant was desirous of giving to Mr. Woodmason, late partner in Beresford's house, a patent for supplying the Excise and Customs with stationery and printing, in consideration of, and as a reward for, services he had rendered to the revenue by the invention of a new mode of printing, to be used in printing permits. Upon referring the case to the Attorney-General he was of opinion that such a patent would not be legal, principally, I believe, on the ground of a clause which I had desired might be introduced into it, stating that the patent should be void if the stationery supplied under it should not be of the best quality and of the lowest price.

Beresford, at whose application the Lord-Lieutenant had

consented to grant this patent, has come to me again lately upon the subject, and has pressed it again. He says that Woodmason asks only for a patent for printing for the Excise, which I don't think would be so objectionable; and he has given me the enclosed paper to show that such patents are not without precedent in England. I wish that you would speak to the Attorney-General again upon the subject, and request him to consider the patent only in reference to printing.

Woodmason has a claim upon government for some remuneration, for he sustained some loss by disclosing the secret of the mode in which he prints the permits; and, I understand, these answer perfectly well.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[585.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 3rd Feb., 1809.

Mr. Whitbread * asked me last night whether I was still Secretary in Ireland, whether I had been so while I was abroad, and whether I received my salary during that period.

I answered, that when I had been appointed to the office of Chief Secretary in Ireland, it had been understood by the King's ministers that my being in that office should not prevent my serving with the army when a fit opportunity should offer, and that accordingly I had served with the army in Zealand, and likewise in Portugal; that when I went upon both those services, and particularly when I went upon the last, I had clearly understood that I had no further claim upon my office, that you were at perfect liberty to appoint a successor when you pleased, and that I should have had no reason whatever to complain if a successor had been appointed. That, however, out of favour and kindness to me, and from a desire that I should continue to render you the assistance which you imagined I gave you, you had deferred to appoint a successor to me, in hopes that I might return; and that when I came home I found I was still in office, and renewed my duties. That in respect to my salary, I said that I was abroad from the 12th July to the beginning of October; that during that time

* Samuel Whitbread, brother-in-law of Earl Grey; M.P. for Bedford county.

I received my salary. That I did so upon this principle, that although the salary of the office was large, it was well known the expenses were large also; that I kept up my establishment in Ireland, and that I could not afford the expense of the office without the salary. I added, that I had not received my pay with the army during part of the time I was there; and that if I had remained any considerable time away from my office, and you had not appointed a successor, I should most probably not have taken the whole salary. But as it was, I assured him I was not richer now than when I took my office.

The House was, I think, well satisfied with what I said; and I think it probable he will not make a motion; but I hope he will, as it will enable me to show more fully what the government have done since you have been there.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[586.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 3rd Feb., 1809.

Huskisson has given me the letter which you wrote to him some time ago, enclosing one you had received from and one you had written to Mr. Lefevre, which I return to you. You imagined that this gentleman was Mr. Shaw Lefevre, the member of Parliament; but it is evidently another person, and one who was attached to the late Duke, who had received some favours from him, and who made an offer to bring you into Parliament for Wareham in 1784.

I opened your letter to him to see whether it was written in the supposition that he was the member, and I enclose it to you as I think it probable that you might wish to reconsider of the expediency of applying to the Ministers on your own account for an office for Mr. Lefevre.

I have omitted to tell you that I have made inquiry about the office for George Berkeley, but I have not yet received Lord Castlereagh's decision.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[587.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 3rd Feb., 1809.

I enclose a letter from Mr. Jocelyn, requesting that a friend of his might be appointed a supervisor of hearths, and you will see my answer to it docketed on the back of it.

I believe he ought to get one of these offices if possible ; and certainly the small office which he desires to fill at Dundalk.

We went last night into the inquiry into the conduct of the Duke of York ; it was clearly proved that Mrs. Clarke had received 200*l.* to expedite an exchange between Lieutenant-Colonel Knight of the 5th dragoon guards, and Colonel Brooke of the 50th foot ; and she said the Duke of York knew that she had received this money. It was proved that she did not tell truth in many instances ; that she had threatened the Duke of York to expose him if he did not give her money ; and that at the time she was negotiating the receipt of this money she had expressed a great desire to keep the transaction secret from him. It was also proved that the Duke of York had consented to this exchange two days, and the King one day, before Mrs. Clarke had been applied to, to exert her influence to expedite it ; so that there is an end to this charge. To-morrow we go upon another.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[588.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 4th Feb., 1809.

The charge against the Duke of York for promoting Captain Maling improperly was last night completely refuted.

Whitbread has given notice of a motion respecting my office on Monday.

I went to see your boys yesterday, and they were very well.

Pole wishes that you would give the office of collector of the carriage duties of the police which Mr. Kemmis has refused to Mr. O'Shean. Have you any objection?

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[589.]

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 4th Feb., 1809.

I have received your letter of the 1st.

I agree in opinion with you respecting the period at which persons having been appointed to offices in the Customs should lose absolutely their claim for compensation in lieu of fees.

I will speak to Beresford and Foster on the case of the store-keeper. This officer, although appointed by patent, has now duties to perform of a very important description, and it appears to me that we ought to make the patentee do the duty, or pay a part of the salary of those who do perform it. I throw this idea out only for consideration, however, and will write to you more precisely upon the subject hereafter.

I will inquire at the Admiralty respecting ———'s ship, the *Lucy*. I rather believe ——— is a pirate, of whom I heard something when I was in the East Indies.

In respect to the quay porters I settled with Lord Castlecoote the plan as follows:—The regular commissioned quay porters who have now salaries each of 6*l.* per annum ought to have each 100*l.* per annum. These ought to be the superintendents of the carmen, porters, &c. &c., upon the Custom-house Quay, who should all be badged; and the Commissioners should fix a reasonable rate of hire for them to be paid by the merchants.

I think Bagwell's letter, which I return, contains but a bad account of the state of affairs in Tipperary. However, matters are now brought to a point. If the magistrates propose that the Insurrection Act should be put in force, the Lord-Lieutenant will proclaim the districts which are disturbed, and now the case rests with them.

I have conversed with Mr. Foster, and have made up my mind upon the case of the clerks of the collector of Cork; but I conceive that if a clerk or a deputy should be able to make out that the Commissioners of Inquiry had not before them a fair account of their fees, either because the person who gave the Commissioners the account was deficient in knowledge, or was corrupt, or for any other cause which I stated to you ought to apply to the case of a principal in any office, such clerks or deputies ought to be allowed to go into fresh proof before the

Commissioners of Customs of the state of their receipts upon an average of three years to 1804.

I conceive that the appointment to any office of clerk or deputy being in the hands of the principal of the offices ought not to preclude such clerk or deputy from the receipt of compensation in lieu of fees. The receipt of his fees was in the nature of an allowance from government of the same description with his salary, which was generally allowed and paid him by government; and there is no reason why he should not receive compensation from the same authority which before allowed him to receive his fees. The question then arises upon the tenure of the compensation, which generally, in every case, whether of principal, deputy, or clerk, must be coeval with the tenure of the office. If any officer should retire, having served twenty-five years, he will of course be entitled to retire from his office with his salary and emoluments, according to the practice of the Customs branch of the service, in which sum will be included his compensation in lieu of fees; but if he should be removed entirely, or promoted, of course his compensation must cease with the tenure of the office for the fees of which he received it.

I think there may be a question whether the deputies of some of the patentee offices ought not to be excepted from this general rule; that is to say, whether the principals ought not to receive the compensation allotted to their deputies when the deputations should cease, or to appoint other deputies to receive the compensation as long as their own patents should last. But this must depend upon the special circumstances of the case, and must be decided accordingly. The general rule is what I have above stated.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[590.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 4th Feb., 1809.

Since writing to you this morning I have received your letter of the 31st. The only point on which I have to reply is the case of Sheahan. The question, in my opinion, rests very much on the fact whether Sheahan and others, whom it is proposed to let out from Limerick gaol on bail, are there for bailable offences?

If they are not so, they ought not to be bailed positively.

I doubt very much the expediency of making any bargain of this kind, even if they are in confinement forailable offences, because I have never seen or heard of any one of the many bargains of this kind made by the government in Ireland which was carried into execution by the other party to it. But if the Solicitor-General and Serjeant Moore, and above all, the Chief Baron, are of opinion that it is expedient to accept this offer in the last supposed case, we may as well accept it, as we may be very certain that if the offences areailable, the offenders will be let out on bail before the next assizes; and we may as well derive some advantage from this evil.

If the offer should be accepted, I recommend that Sheahan should be bound to something more specific than is stated in the enclosed paper; and most particularly he ought to be made to give in the names of the persons who have arms in their possession, and the arms should be surrendered before government should perform any part of the conditions required.

The case of Captain ———, as stated in your letter of the 31st, has a more serious appearance than it had in that of the 1st: both together, however, make such a case as that it is necessary that I should take some steps upon the subject.

I return you Mr. Dickson's paper, and I will return by tomorrow's post Colonel Bagwell's and Mr. Perry's letters, and the affidavit respecting Captain ———, which must be copied, to be laid before Lord Liverpool.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Liverpool.

[591.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 5th Feb., 1809.

Some time in the month of October I received information that there was a suspicious person at Dungarvan, who called himself Captain ———, and, by direction of the Lord-Lieutenant, I had him seized as a *stranger* under the Insurrection Act, and brought to Dublin with his papers. I examined him twice in presence of the Attorney and Solicitor General, and his papers were looked over; the result of his examination was, that his real name was ———, and that he

was not in Ireland for any treasonable purpose, but that he had commanded the *Lucy* privateer in the Eastern Seas, and that he had sold that vessel in the East Indies. I was of opinion that he had come to Ireland to avoid his creditors in London, or that probably he had done something he ought not to have done in his capacity of captain of the privateer. Accordingly he was discharged from the custody of the King's messenger who had brought him up from Dungarvan, and he remained for some days in Dublin.

While living at an hotel in that city it appears that he was seen by Captain Ribbon, who was the commander of a vessel which was lately wrecked near Arklow, who, it appears by the enclosed copies of informations, recognized Captain ———, alias ———, as the captain of a vessel which had captured a vessel which he, Captain Ribbon, had commanded off the coast of the Brazils. I understand Captain Ribbon is a Swede, and that he is to be heard of at Jones and Woodville's, Liverpool.

I apprise your Lordship of these circumstances in case you should think it desirable to have inquiries made from Captain Ribbon respecting the capture of his vessel, and such further proceedings adopted as may be necessary in order to bring Captain ——— to justice, in case he should be a pirate, as he now appears to be.

Ever, my dear Lord, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[592.]

To Francis Freeling, Esq.

SIR,

London, 6th Feb., 1809.

I enclose the copy of a Bill which I propose to introduce into the House of Commons, if it should meet with the approbation of the Postmasters-General, giving the power of franking to the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland, and to the Secretary of the Commander of the Forces in that country, under certain restrictions. I request you to lay this Bill before their Lordships.

The object of the first clause in the Bill is to enable the Archbishops and Bishops to correspond with the clergy of their respective dioceses free of postage; and that of the second

clause is to give to an officer who has a very extensive correspondence upon the King's service, according to the mode at present in practice of conducting the business of the army, the same facilities for carrying on that correspondence which are allowed to other officers in a similar situation. In fact he is now under the necessity of prevailing upon a clerk in the Adjutant-General's Office to frank his letters.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Francis Freeling, Esq., to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

SIR,

General Post Office, 8th Feb., 1809.

I shall take the earliest opportunity of submitting your letter of the 6th instant, and the draft of a proposed Bill, to my Lord the Postmaster-General.

I presume it is intended to confine the exercise of the franking privilege there recited to Ireland, in the same manner as the privilege is granted to the Lord Chancellor, Lord High Treasurer, and other great officers in Ireland by the Act of the 42nd of the King, cap. 63, sec. 7; an Act passed subsequent to the Union.

I shall hope not to be deemed impertinent if, in common with every Englishman, I express my strong feeling of admiration and respect for the individual whom I address, for his splendid achievements and unwearied exertions in the service of his country.

I have the honour to be, with great esteem, Sir,

Your faithful servant,

F. FREELING.

P.S. I enclose an extract from the Act to which I have referred.

[ENCLOSURE.]

Extract from Act 42 George III., cap. 63, sec. 7.

"And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Lord High Chancellor, the Lord High Treasurer, or Commissioners of the Treasury, the Secretary to the Treasurer, the Quartermaster-General, the Chief Commissioner of the Barrack Board, the Assistant Under-Secretary for the Law Department of the Chief Secretary's Office, the First Clerk of the Civil Department in the said Office, the Treasurer or Receiver-General of the Post Office, the Comptroller of the Sorting Office in the Post Office, and the Surveyors of the Post Office, all within Ireland for the time being, to send and receive letters and packets by the post in Ireland free from the duties of postage, in the same manner and under such restrictions," &c. &c.

[593.]

To Henry Barry, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 6th Feb., 1809.

I have received your letter of the 31st of January, and I assure you that I shall consider the application of your nephew, Mr. Robert Barry, for an increase of his salary, with every disposition to reward his merits, and to attend to your wishes. But I must inform you that I am obliged to refrain from recommending to the Lord-Lieutenant any increase of expense in the public offices which is not rendered absolutely necessary; and I am not certain that it would be considered proper to increase the salary of Mr. Barry, only because the salary of the gentleman performing the same duty in the War Office in England is larger. There may, however, exist other and good grounds for an increase; and I will take the subject into consideration as soon as I shall return to Ireland.

Ever, my dear Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[594.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 6th Feb., 1809.

I return Mr. Bagwell's and Mr. Perry's letters. I also send a letter from Mr. Grant, which I beg you to lay before the Lord Lieutenant, and an anonymous letter to Lord Mulgrave.

Something ought really to be done for Mr. Grant, or I shall be brought to disgrace before the House of Commons. The circumstances stated in the anonymous letter are also worth attending to, although I by no means think that the Bay referred to is the Bay of Dublin.

Don't forget Mr. Ross, to be appointed the Surveying Gauger of the Port of Derry for General Charles Stewart, in the room of Mr. Bennett, superannuated.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[595.]

To the Postmasters of Ireland, and to Lord Clancarty.

MY LORDS,

London, 7th Feb., 1809.

I have the honour to enclose your Lordships the copy of a Bill which I propose to introduce into the House of Commons,

extending to the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland and to the Secretary of the Commander of the Forces the privilege of sending and receiving letters free, from postage, under certain limitations and restrictions; and I request your Lordships will take this Bill into your consideration and make me acquainted with your sentiments upon it.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

[596.]

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 8th Feb., 1809.

I consider it most important that Colonel ——— should be brought to trial before a court martial, rather than be dismissed from the King's service, as you propose, because there belongs to his case a clandestine bargain with ord L——, which will not be brought to light unless Colonel ——— should be tried; and I am afraid that if it be not brought to light, Lord ——— will succeed to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy; and if he do, Colonel ——— will have all that he wishes for viz., the annuity which Lord ——— engaged to give him, and he will not care a fig for the disgrace we may heap upon him. I wish, therefore, that efforts were made by all means to have him taken by the Provost Marshal: let him and the people of the police of Dublin look out for him; and if that won't answer, employ people to look for him in the counties of Wicklow and Wexford, or wherever he may be supposed to be. Let the Brigade-Majors of yeomanry, or any other trusty officers in those counties, have the appointment of assistant provosts. Send spies into the county where he is, with directions to report the result of their inquiries to one of these officers; and let the assistant provosts have directions to take out the troops or the yeomanry and assist in taking him whenever they shall discover where he is to be found. I think these measures will be successful; but if they should be otherwise, you must draw out a full report of his case (which you will be the better enabled to do after the trial of any of his accomplices) in a despatch from the Lord-Lieutenant to the Secretary of State, and send it over here that His Majesty's pleasure may be taken upon it, with a recommendation that His Majesty may strike

his name from the list of the militia. You had better send me over the draft of the despatch, and the documents on which it is founded, before you submit it to the Lord-Lieutenant for his signature.

It will still be proper to take the opinion of the Attorney-General whether the civil power cannot be brought in aid of the military to have Colonel ——— seized.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[597.]

To Francis Freeling, Esq.

SIR,

London, 10th Feb., 1809.

In answer to your letter of the 8th instant, I beg leave to observe that you appear to have misconceived the nature and extent of the privilege of franking which it is proposed should be exercised by the Secretary to the Commander of the Forces in Ireland.

It is intended that that officer should have the power of franking to every part of the United Kingdom in the same manner and under the same restrictions as the Under-Secretary and Chief Clerk of the War Department in Ireland exercise; and you will find it so specified in the copy of the Bill which I transmitted to you.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[598.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 12th Feb., 1809.

Since I wrote to you last, the inquiry has continued in the House of Commons nearly as you see it represented in the newspapers. The points on which any impression has been made against the Duke of York are: Dowler's appointment, which proved that Mrs. Clarke had influence to obtain such an appointment; the contradiction by Pearce, Mrs. Clarke's butler, of the evidence of Ludovick, the Duke's footman, on a point on which the Duke had himself examined Ludovick; the purchase

of a service of plate at Rickett's for 1850*l.*, for which the Duke paid only 1350*l.*, and Mrs. Clarke 500*l.*, as she says, from the money she received, with the Duke's knowledge, on account of her interference in French's levy; and lastly, and principally, the allowance of 1000*l.* per annum, which she stated he gave her, compared with the extravagant expenses of her house and establishment, and connected with the payment of this last sum of 500*l.* to Rickett the jeweller, which expenses and which sum it is pretended the Duke must have known she could procure only from impure sources.

There has appeared in the two last days a general system of swindling, applicable to all the offices of the state, in which Mrs. Clarke has been most active, and a great gainer. My name was introduced by her in her examination of Saturday, as having been used by this gang of swindlers to impose upon the credulous. She said that Maltby, whom she represented as one of the swindlers, had told Lodovick, a gentleman of Essex, who had lodged money to obtain the place of assistant-commisary, that I was so busy with the Court of Inquiry that I could not attend to their applications in his, Lodovick's, favour. The House was in a roar when she mentioned my name; but I was happy to find that not a single man, not even Folkstone, imagined that I knew anything about the matter.

I think that the scenes of swindling which have been and will be laid open will be useful, not only to the Duke of York, but to public men in general in this country; as it will be manifest to the whole world that not one of any party or description has had any concern, direct or indirect, in the sale of an office; and that these transactions, which have deservedly created so much indignation, have been carried on by the scum of the earth. The discovery will be useful to the Duke, inasmuch as it will show that these persons have not made use of his name only; and it will create a strong presumptive proof in his favour that Mrs. Clarke and her associates have no more ground for using his name, and for stating they exercised an influence over him, than they had to state the same of the Duke of Portland, the Chancellor, and myself.

There is nothing new.

Ever, my dear Duke, yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[599.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlechales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 12th Feb., 1809.

I received only yesterday your letter of the 5th by express.

You are quite correct in your notions and your reasonings respecting the measure of calling in the arms of the yeomanry. The best and only mode of securing them, in the disaffected state in which the country is at present, would undoubtedly be to lodge them in a dépôt or store; but this measure would be attended with great inconvenience and expense, would probably diminish the ardour of the people for the yeomanry service, and consequently the numbers of the yeomanry; and at all events we are not ourselves prepared for its execution, as we have not got dépôts or storehouses ready for the arms. I believe therefore that the measure to be adopted at present is to call the attention of the commanding officers of corps of yeomanry and the brigade-majors in the disturbed districts to this subject, and to request them to suggest to the General officers such measures for the security of the arms as they may think necessary, either by collecting them in one or more places convenient of access to the yeomanry soldiers to whom they belong, and placing small guards over them, or any other measure that they can suggest.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[600.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 12th Feb., 1809.

I enclose the list of the supervisors of hearth-money, and I have numbered those who I think ought to be appointed, and have scratched in pencil the names of those who ought not. Take his Grace's pleasure upon this list.

I have scratched out the name of Lady ———'s friend from the list of collectors, because I have witnessed such horrible scenes of corruption in the appointment to offices here, that I am afraid of taking any recommendation from a person who, like her Ladyship, is in distressed circumstances.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Mrs. Dawson.

[601.]

DEAR MRS. DAWSON,

London, 12th Feb., 1809.

You do me justice in believing that I would give the utmost attention to any subject in which you are interested; and I assure you that ever since I conversed with Major Armstrong respecting you, I have considered of the means of being of use to you. I applied for apartments at Hampton Court for you, which happened to become vacant two days after I was informed of your situation; but I was too late in my application, and I shall renew it immediately, in hopes thus to relieve you from some of the expenses attending your residence in London.

I am the more anxious to succeed in this object because I fear that it is all it is in my power to do. The power of granting pensions in the hands of the government of Ireland is extremely limited, and the claims are numerous; and even if I should be able to prevail on the Lord-Lieutenant to promise you a share of the grant, to which he would be much disinclined on account of his determination to make no engagements, the time during which this increase of your income would be most necessary to you would elapse before the Duke would have it in his power to grant you anything.

I have nothing to say to the pension-lists of this country, from which it is, if possible, more difficult to get any provision.

I intended, and still intend, to have the pleasure of waiting upon you; but in the mean time I shall not delay to answer your letter, and to assure you how truly I am

• Your most faithful servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[602.]

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 12th Feb., 1809.

I received your letter yesterday by the express which I believe left Dublin on the 5th. I am glad to find that there are such good grounds for hope that the counties of Limerick and Kerry will remain in tranquillity, as their arms have already been demanded. In my opinion it would be advisable to take those arms from the chapels in which they have been lodged, and place them in the King's stores, without

making any inquiry about the persons who have taken them from their owners.

The question of a general pardon is one of considerable delicacy, which requires much consideration. I have never seen or heard of any instance in which it has answered any good purpose in respect to the quiet of the country. It invariably affects the dignity and respectability of the government; and I am not certain that it would not be proved that it has a tendency rather to encourage disturbance than to secure tranquillity. At the same time I know that if the arms are surrendered, and the people of the country give that unequivocal proof of their determination to be quiet, there will be no end to vindictive prosecutions for the outrages already committed, unless the Lord-Lieutenant should interfere by the grant of his pardon. Those who have suffered, and who tell me that they do not know the persons to whom they attribute their sufferings, would immediately come forward to prosecute, and the guilty would be absolutely driven again to their old practices. The measure, therefore, which I would recommend would be this: encourage as much as you can the surrender of the arms without any promise of pardon or any publication of the intentions of government upon this subject. You will at the same time give the magistrates with whom government are in correspondence to understand that such individuals as have surrendered or will surrender their arms voluntarily, and will come forward with a confession in writing of the crimes in which they have been accomplices, will be pardoned by government upon a consideration of their respective cases, and upon the recommendation of the magistrates, with the exception always of those persons concerned in murders or inflicting personal injuries.

In respect to the story of the serjeant of the 40th, it is very improbable that any Frenchman would venture among such people as are represented to have composed the company in which he was found; but I don't doubt that the serjeant was among those people himself.

In respect to the despatch from the Lord-Lieutenant, the object of it was to raise a discussion in the cabinet on the measure of putting in force the Insurrection Act. It will answer no purpose, and the discussion will not take place, if the despatch does not represent matters to be in such a state as that this last

extreme should be adopted. On the contrary, I am convinced that when the Lord-Lieutenant will report that the ordinary process of the law, administered by a special commission at Limerick and Tralee, has restored tranquillity in the counties of Kerry and Limerick, the answer will be, "Try the same measures in Waterford and Tipperary, and don't put in execution the Insurrection Act." You will observe that the Lord-Lieutenant is authorised, not only by the general powers vested in him, but by a despatch written by the King's command, to execute this particular law; but he very naturally wished to consult the ministers, if there were an opportunity, before he should execute it in any particular instance; and Lord Liverpool and others, knowing the state of opinions in the cabinet on all measures respecting Ireland, wished to have an opportunity of considering the propriety of adopting this particular measure at any time, and in any case in which the Lord-Lieutenant should think it necessary to adopt it. In this view of the question you will see that a despatch, written under the circumstances which you represent, can produce at best only the general authority to put the law in execution which the Lord-Lieutenant has at present, and may draw from the ministers here a refusal to consent to put it in execution, which might be construed into a virtual annihilation of the general authority before intrusted to the Lord-Lieutenant. I should therefore recommend that, until the measure becomes urgent, the despatch should not be written.

Ready must have whatever the Lord-Lieutenant chooses to give him. The question is, whether it shall be from the vote of credit or the secret service. I rather believe it ought to be from the latter for the present at least, till we can find room upon the Civil List both for this sum and for his salary of private secretary. Let me know what is the annual amount of the excess of the Civil List beyond the payments at present, and the amount of the secret charges upon this excess.

The apartments in the Castle should be overhauled, for I rather believe that the *old stagers* who compose the Duke of Richmond's household have taken to themselves much more than they ought. At least, I am very certain that in former times, when the Lord-Lieutenant's family was larger, the Castle afforded room for the private secretary.

I sent you the name of the sheriff for Cavan some days ago.
I'll speak to Lord Enniskillen about the sheriff for Fermanagh.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[603.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 15th Feb., 1809.

I enclose a letter from Sir ———, which in my opinion smells of a job for a clergyman. I believe what he proposes cannot be done. At all events, before it is done, let us be certain that the church will be built on the ground which he will grant.

Ever yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[604.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 15th Feb., 1809.

I have received your letter of the 10th respecting General Lee's removal to Clonmel. I recommend that the satisfaction of the Lord-Lieutenant with his conduct while in command at Limerick should be communicated to him, and that he should be told that his Grace will communicate his sentiments respecting him to the Secretary of State for the information of the Commander-in-Chief. In writing this last letter, it would be well to point out that the measures which he has adopted for the preservation of the peace of the country, his conciliating manners and conduct with the magistrates and gentlemen, and his good sense and understanding have attracted the notice of the Lord-Lieutenant.

Ever yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[605.]

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 15th Feb., 1809.

I have received your letter of the 7th. I return that from Mr. Willock, and that from General Lee regarding the embezzlement of the powder from the stores of the Tyrone militia. This transaction appears to be only of the nature of a petty theft.

I have also received your letter of the 8th. I spoke to Lord Liverpool, and gave him a mem. respecting ———, but I have not yet heard whether he has directed any or what steps to be taken respecting that person.

I have also received your letter of the 11th. The letter which I transmitted to you was sent by Lord Mulgrave. There was no post-mark on it; but from the language I thought it came from Dublin, and I sent it to you that you might have an eye upon the letters supposed to have been landed, and that it might enable you to judge of the truth of any reports which might have reached you of recent intelligence received from France.

I have settled the business of Chancellor of the Order of St. Patrick. He will have *literally the copper collars*, for they are of copper. Mr. ———, the father of the ———, stole the money for the gold collars, and bought copper.

I also received your letter of the 9th.

I enclose some papers from Admiral Whitshed respecting payment of the expense of a boat for searching American vessels and collecting letters. It was certainly understood at the time the allowance of thirty pounds a-year was made that this would be the only expense, and, as well as I recollect, I had a correspondence on the subject with Admiral Whitshed, which is either in the office or among my papers. In neither case will they ever be found, as we can never find anything in the office, and Mr. Wyatt is sick, and I have appointed Mr. Forbes to be my secretary, and he is not yet able to find the papers which I want. However, I believe it would be best to grant the expense of boat-hire hitherto incurred, but not to allow of it hereafter. I'll write to Admiral Whitshed on the subject.

I also enclose a letter from Mr. Weelyer upon the exchange of persons in an appointment at Dundalk.

I also enclose a sketch of a draft of a despatch from the

Lord-Lieutenant to Lord Liverpool on a measure which the ministers propose to adopt in Ireland with a view to manifest a disposition to attend to the interests of that country, and to provide it with flax-seed. Let this despatch be put in decent language, and be sent over.

Pray let me have the copy of the Report from the Navy Board.

Ever yours sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[606.]

To Colonel Longfield.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

London, 17th Feb., 1809.

I return the petition of the city of Cork, upon which I have communicated with the King's servants. The principle of granting the public money for local purposes (excepting in cases in which the whole of the community are interested, and which can, therefore, scarcely be called local) is considered so objectionable, that the government cannot recommend to the King to consent that this petition should be entertained in Parliament. I cannot, however, return it to you without expressing my concern that I should have been obliged to withhold the King's consent from a measure which has for its object to improve the city of Cork, for whose inhabitants I have every reason to entertain sentiments of gratitude and respect; and in doing so I cannot but recommend to you and to them to devise some measure of local taxation which will produce the means which they require to carry their laudable purpose into execution.

Ever, my dear Colonel, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[607.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 17th Feb., 1809.

I have not written to you for two or three days respecting the inquiry, for I have had nothing to tell you but what was in the newspapers, or that would afford you any satisfaction.

The *love-letters* have created a terrible impression. They prove that the Duke allowed Mrs. Clarke to talk to him on the

claims and requests of officers, and that she had prevailed upon him to recommend Mr. O'Meara to the King as a preacher.

Last night there was a terrible case of a Mr. Kennett, a bankrupt upholsterer, who had been in the pillory, for whom the Duke had endeavoured to obtain the office of Collector of the Customs at Surinam. Connected with this arrangement there was a negotiation for a loan of 70,000*l*. I doubt whether this case was legally proved; but it has a bad appearance. Besides a note, supposed to be from the Duke, was after some difficulty produced, stating that "Tongue's business should be stopped." Mrs. Clarke could give no account of this note; but it is urged by the Duke's friends that the note is a forgery, and was written to induce Tongue to pay his money and to show him that he would not be promoted unless he did pay it; and by his enemies that he wrote it himself, and that it proves that he knew of and was even a party to Mrs. Clarke's plunder of Tongue. I doubt the hand-writing being the Duke's, although it resembles it much, and we are to have Gordon this day before us to say whether it is or not. But I acknowledge that from other circumstances attending the note, namely, its seal, the direction, the difficulty with which we got it from the holder, and Mrs. Clarke's real, unaffected ignorance of its existence both before and after it was produced, I am induced to fear that it is the Duke's hand-writing. The impression is strong against the Duke both in and out of the House. People are outrageous in the country on account of the immorality of his life, which makes no impression in town, and they have burnt him in effigy in Suffolk and in Yorkshire. I hear that the city of Westminster propose to pass a resolution, and that the city of London intend to petition the King to dissolve the Parliament, if the Duke of York should be acquitted of all blame. In the mean time all other business is at a stand, and nobody talks or thinks of anything but Mrs. Clarke.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Mrs. Clarke is followed and applauded by the mob as she goes to and returns from the House.

[608.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 17th Feb., 1809.

I enclose a letter from Lord Limerick, recommending his friend Mr. Casey for the office of Police Magistrate, which is likely to become vacant by the death of Mr. Lysaght; and likewise a letter from Mr. King, applying for the same office. I told Lord Limerick that Mr. Casey was an elderly man, and that I thought it probable that he would be considered not sufficiently active for the office; and that at all events you would appoint to it the fittest person only, and would make no arrangement to fill it till it should be actually vacant.

The answer to Mr. King is on the back of his letter.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[609.]

To Sir H. C. Montgomery.

DEAR MONTGOMERY,

London, 17th Feb., 1809.

I have perused Hart's letter, which I have returned. I perfectly recollect his conversation with me, and my telling him that I would recollect his wishes to be employed, and that I would recommend him to the Lord Lieutenant if there should be a favourable opportunity. But the fact is, that there is no office in Ireland in the gift of the Lord Lieutenant, which is not one of great business, and that of a nature which I should be very unwilling to propose to Hart to do. The government have nothing to do with the military department; and the office in the Hibernian School, which Hart mentions, is in the gift of Lord Harrington, who, I know, has given it to an officer.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[610.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 18th Feb. 1809.

I have received your letters of the 13th and 14th. I return Mr. Parnell's letter, to which I conceive that it will not be necessary to give any further answer excepting that you had communicated it to me. In fact, Sir John Newport is in town, and

the bill which he intends to oppose does not go into a committee till Monday.

I rather think that Lord Annesley's conception of the salaries for the hearthmoney collectors is correct. I shall be obliged to you if you will desire that Mr. Hendrick, who knows everything respecting the Paving Act, may come over here as soon as possible. I disapprove of many parts of the bill proposed by Taylor.

I enclose a letter which has been referred to me by Mr. Perceval. If the commission for the examination into the state of the different public institutions receiving Parliamentary aid should be still sitting, I request you to refer this paper to them, and request them to make inquiry respecting the complaint it contains, and report the result to the Lord-Lieutenant. If it should not still exist, or indeed whether it does or not, I believe it would be best to refer the enclosed letter to the Lord-Chancellor as a vice-president of the hospital, and request him to call a meeting of the vice-presidents to investigate this complaint.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[611.]

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 19th Feb., 1809.

Some time ago Lord Hertford recommended to me Mr. John Rowan, who is the landwaiter at Larne, to be the surveying gauger at Belfast, vacant by the death of Mr. Martin, and that Mr. John Casement should be the landwaiter at Larne, vacant by the promotion of Mr. Rowan; but I believe that the Lord-Lieutenant had made some arrangement for the disposal of that office to Lord Donegal, and Lord Hertford was disappointed. Yesterday Lord Hertford informed me that the office was still vacant, and he has again pressed me to recommend Mr. Rowan to the Lord-Lieutenant. I shall be obliged to you to let me know whether the office is really vacant, and if it be, I shall recommend the Lord-Lieutenant to appoint Mr. Rowan to fill it; as although Lord Donegal is a man of high rank, he has neither the character nor the influence in the county of Antrim that Lord Hertford has, and the only member returned by him

has not attended for these two last sessions. Besides this, if it were equally important to support his influence as it is to support that of Lord Hertford, the necessity of giving him an office of this description is not so great, as the borough of Belfast in his hands consists of only twelve voters, while Lord Hertford has to contend for the county of Antrim. On every account, therefore, if the office should be still vacant, I should wish to recommend the Lord-Lieutenant to give it to Lord Hertford in preference to Lord Donegal.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[612.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 19th Feb., 1809.

I have received your letters of the 12th, 13th, and 15th. I have spoken to Lord Hawkesbury and to Lord Castlereagh respecting your strength in Ireland; but I cannot say it is with much effect.

I'll speak to Rochfort about Mr. Robinson.

I recollect perfectly one of the deputies of the seceders (I don't remember his name) speaking to Lord Castlereagh and me respecting the appointment of a person to be the agent of the seceders, and recommending himself, his colleague being at that time sick and unable to attend at the conferences we held with them. I told him that the selection of the agent would depend upon you, and I thought it probable you would be guided in your choice very much by the wishes of the seceders themselves, and that you certainly would not decide till Parliament had consented to the enlargement of the grant to them, and the arrangement you had proposed had been carried into execution. The man who spoke to us was the tallest of the two. I think they would do better not to come over this year; but desire Sir C. Saxton to tell them to send me a petition by return of the express, to be presented to the House of Commons.

Barry spoke to me respecting the appointment of a person to be collector of Cavan, if Macleod should decline to accept the office, on the day before yesterday. I told him that I thought it probable that you would allow Lord Farnham and him to recommend for the office; but that, considering the respectability of the appointment, you were of opinion it should be given to a

person of greater consequence in the county than Lord Farnham's agent. I promised to write him a letter on the subject, that he might prove to Lord Farnham that he had not neglected his wishes, and I will send you a copy of this letter. I'll speak to Gordon about Ready; but they are so confoundedly alarmed at the Horse Guards respecting this inquiry, which has branched out with deviations into which it ought not to have gone, that it is very difficult for them to do anything.

I think that the inquiry of Friday has done the Duke no good. The proof rather turns against his having written the note regarding Tongue's promotion; but the reasoning goes the other way, and the proof is by no means strong, and cannot counter-balance the reasoning upon the circumstances attending the contents, the seal, the direction, the circumstances under which it is supposed to have been written, and its discovery. Then other letters were produced on the same night, some of which tend materially to confirm Mrs. Clarke's evidence. I don't think Perceval's statement of the sums expended by the Duke on Mrs. Clarke did him much good. It was not well or clearly made in the first instance; it was too confined as to the general state of his affairs, but sufficiently detailed and substantiated for a confirmed statement.

If he could not prove anything, which he could not, he ought to have gone into a general statement of the Duke's affairs, and to have shown, as I understood he might have done, that the Duke had spent during the two years and a half he kept Mrs. Clarke not less than 35,000*l*. In short, the impression against the Duke both in and out of doors is very strong and very general, and I am not quite certain that the best measure for him to adopt would not be to send a message to the House of Commons to desire that he might be put in the course of having a fair and legal trial. I am convinced that he cannot continue to hold his office, and that if the present ministers endeavour to support him in it, they will be beat in Parliament.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[613.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 19th Feb., 1809.

My time has been so much taken up lately, that I have not been able to answer your letter of the 7th on the subject of the correspondence with the Commander of the Forces in relation to the state of the barracks.

It is my opinion that the remarks of the Medical Board relating to the selection of the appointment, to the duties, and to the attendance of the barrack-masters, are undeserving our attention, and that we ought not to notice them, as being out of the line of their duty to submit them to the Commander of the Forces. Accordingly, I recommend that the Commander of the Forces should be informed that his Grace the Lord-Lieutenant is aware of the abuses which have prevailed in the selection, in the attendance, and in the performance of their duties by the persons heretofore appointed barrack-masters; that his Grace has already taken effectual measures to ensure their attendance, and that he will take effectual measures to ensure the performance of their duties; and that he will select none to be barrack-masters who are not capable of performing them, and who will not perform them in person; and that he will dismiss from their offices those who shall neglect their duties, or shall fail to perform them in a satisfactory manner. That his Lordship must be aware that, owing to the disturbances which have taken place in Ireland in the last twelve years, various persons have been appointed to be barrack-masters as a reward for their services, or in some instances in compensation for damages they had received, and that many of those persons had been allowed by the government of the day to appoint their deputies. That although his Grace is determined that no person shall hereafter be appointed a barrack-master who will not perform his duty in person, he considers it would be a measure of hardship upon those who have received their offices as a reward for services performed, or in compensation for losses incurred during the rebellions, and who have been allowed to employ deputies, to force them to do their duty in person, or to deprive them of their offices if they should refuse so to perform it. That therefore, although his Grace is determined that all barrack-masters appointed, or who may hereafter be appointed, by his Grace or his successors in office, as well as all barrack-masters who have not hitherto been

allowed to do their duty by deputy, shall do their duty in person, and shall constantly reside at their station, it is not his intention to force to residence those who have hitherto been permitted to be absent, provided they will appoint as their deputies persons of whom the Barrackmaster-General will approve, and they will pay them such salaries as will be considered a fair compensation for the trouble and responsibility imposed upon them.

There is no doubt whatever of the necessity of adopting measures to insure the cleanliness of the barrack bedding. Accordingly I recommend that the Barrackmaster-General be directed to supply for each barrack in Ireland a sufficient quantity of bedding to enable him to supply the troops when that before in use will be in the process of cleaning or scouring. I recommend, however, as an amelioration of the plan proposed, that the great scouring of the bedding proposed by the means of the alkaline salt should be made only by the direction of the Barrackmaster-General, upon a representation by the commanding officer of the regiment and the medical officers of the station. It would then be conducted under the direction of the barrackmaster and the superintendence of the medical officers.

The blankets, however, and other descriptions of bedding, should be washed as frequently as the commanding officers of regiments, with the sanction of the General officers commanding in the districts, shall think necessary. The washing of the sheets is, of course, paid for by the troops.

If the barrack regulations applicable to the care of the barrack furniture and bedding by the troops while in use, and by the barrack-masters when not in use; to the delivery and receipt of the furniture, to the regular payment for damages every week, and to the constant visitation by the barrack-masters, are not complete, they should be revised and amended; but, as well as I can recollect them, they are perfectly so, and should not be altered unless in case of necessity.

Everything that relates to the cleanliness of the barracks themselves, and of the troops in their barracks, is matter of military regulation, with which we have nothing to do, and is more properly referable to the Commander of the Forces.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[614.]

To Colonel Barry.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

London, 19th Feb., 1809.

Upon considering your desire that in case Major Macleod should not accept of the office of collector of Cavan, the gentleman recommended by Lord Farnham should be appointed to it, I have to mention to you that the Lord-Lieutenant is disposed to attend to the recommendation of Lord Farnham of a gentleman to fill this office. But advertng to the importance of Collector of the Excise, and the fact that it is the only office of value in the county of Cavan, and to the necessity that it should be filled by a gentleman of the first respectability, who will devote his whole time and attention to its duties, I cannot avoid requesting you to urge Lord Farnham to select as the person to be recommended for it a gentleman who it will be agreed on all sides is not only unexceptionable, but, as Major Macleod is, the fittest for the office. While writing upon this subject, I cannot but observe that an office which it would have been proper for Major Macleod to accept, ought not to be given to a person of an ordinary character.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[615.]

*To the Right Hon. Sir James Pulteney, Bart.**

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 20th Feb., 1809.

I enclose drafts of two clauses for the Mutiny Act, one imposing a penalty on persons who may refuse to billet soldiers in Ireland, the other extending to Ireland the clause introduced last year in respect to apprentices.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[616.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 20th Feb., 1809.

I enclose a letter from the Archbishop of Cashel respecting Mr. Woodward. There is no doubt that Mr. Woodward has claims upon the government, founded upon his services at the

* Secretary at War.

period of the Union, which have never been required, and I would recommend him to your favour. He would be an acquisition in any one of the offices he mentions.

I have received your letter of the 16th. I have obtained leave to bring in a bill to enable Bishops in Ireland to frank from their see homes; but this bill has been so strongly objected to by the Post Office, and is likely to be so fiercely opposed by all descriptions of Irishmen, Peers as well as commoners, that I shall not be able to carry it through.

I should recommend you not to give ————— the command of a corps of yeomanry. I do not fear or doubt his loyalty; but the fact is, that when a man in Ireland has ever been disloyal, he is like a woman who has laboured under the suspicion of a defect in point of chastity; he is shunned by all the loyal, as she is by the rigorously chaste, and he is obliged to associate with the disaffected; if not with the disloyal, as she is with those suspected of a similar defect, if not with those positively impure. Thus, in times of difficulty, those of this description in Ireland are driven into rebellion, when their intentions on their return to their country and on receiving their pardon have been the best. Besides, there is another difficulty in giving him the command of a corps of yeomanry; it is that of finding one which will serve under his orders. Besides former disloyalty, ————— labours under the imputation of being the worst tempered and most disagreeable of mankind, and I much fear you would not find a corps of yeomanry which would wish to have him as their commander. But the first objection is, in my opinion, fatal to him; and I would recommend you to tell him that, with every confidence in him, the government cannot pretend to stem the prejudices of the country, and that you recommend him to wait with patience till the recollection of the events which have given cause for those prejudices should be effaced, or until such events should unfortunately occur in the country as should oblige people to look for the assistance of men of energy and talents such as he possesses, to command the yeomanry, at which period he would have an opportunity of giving a practical proof, by his conduct, of the alteration of his principles.

Believe me, my dear Duke,

Ever yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[617.]

To Lord Viscount Northland.

MY LORD,

London, 24th Feb., 1809.

I have the honour to inform you that the sum of 3000 guineas is lodged in Coutts's bank in the names of John Forbes, Esq., and Claude Scott, Esq., which sum will be paid in fourteen sitting days after Mr. Scott will be returned to Parliament, to the order of your Lordship.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Mr. Forbes is my private secretary, and I have had the money lodged in his name, as I did not know of anybody in London to whom your Lordship would wish to have your interests intrusted upon this occasion.

[618.]

To Colonel Gordon.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

London, 25th Feb., 1809.

I enclose a letter which I have received from Lieutenant Crooks, of the 19th dragoons, and a statement of his services. This is the officer respecting whom I spoke to you some days ago; and in addition to what I then said to you in his favour, I have to mention that General Floyd is very anxious that something should be done for him, and has strongly urged me to apply in his favour.

In his conversations with me upon this subject, Lieutenant Crooks has mentioned one argument to me which may deserve His Royal Highness's attention. He says that several serjeants of the 19th, who were his comrades, have retired upon the highest Chelsea pension, and that if he, who was promoted to be an officer on account of his more meritorious conduct, should be placed on the half-pay of a Lieutenant, he would not receive more than some of those serjeants, and very little more than many of them. On this ground he urges to be promoted to be a Captain, and then to be allowed to go on half-pay.

Believe me ever yours truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Rosse.

[619.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 25th Feb., 1809.

I am very much obliged and flattered by the friendly offer contained in your letter of the 20th. I have no reason to believe that I am to be employed on any foreign service, excepting the general report of this town; but if I were to be so employed, I could not bring myself to take advantage of your Lordship's kind offer, and place you in a situation of much trouble and responsibility only for my convenience. His Majesty and his ministers must determine in what manner they will employ my services, and if they should employ me abroad, they must determine in concert with the Lord-Lieutenant, as they have done hitherto, who is to fill my office.

I am, however, I assure you, equally sensible of your Lordship's friendship and kindness, and I beg you to believe me

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

The Earl of Rosse to Sir Arthur Wellesley.

MY DEAR SIR ARTHUR,

Dublin, 20th Feb., 1809.

As there have been rumours here that you may be employed in the south of Spain, and as I totally differ from Mr. Whitbread, thinking that every possible indulgence should be extended to those who are fighting the battles of our country, and therefore that it would be very hard that you should lose your office here, or its advantages during your absence, if I could be, in case of such an event, of any use to you by acting for you here while absent, I will most cheerfully do so. It would make little difference to me, except spending a little more time in this town than I should do otherwise. Nor am I aware that there would be any impropriety in it. Something similar took place between Lord Castlereagh and Lord Chichester, when the latter had a severe illness.

I am, my dear Sir Arthur, with the greatest regard,

Yours most truly,

Rosse.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[620.]

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 25th Feb., 1809.

I have received your letters of the 17th, 20th, and 21st and 22nd instant, and I have been so much pressed by the business in Parliament in the last week, which has generally lasted until four, five, and six o'clock every morning, that I have not been able to consider them and write to you till this day.

In answer to that of the 17th, I must mention to you that I am afraid General Lee has gone a little too far in his measures for pardoning criminals in Limerick. The gentlemen of the counties of Limerick and Kerry appear to be inclined to complain of them; and if what he has done be not irrevocable, I wish you would look over my letter to you upon this subject, and give General Lee directions according to its tenor.

There is so much opposition to the Bishop Franking Bill, that I cannot venture to proceed with it; but I will write to the Bishop of Meath on the subject.

I don't think it is quite fair in ——— to press the Duke of Richmond, considering how handsomely he has dealt by him. We can't touch the Civil List fund until it has been into the King's hands, and we must try in the first instance to get the surplus up to the 25th of March next to pay the demands upon it, and particularly that due to Lord Shannon, which amounts to more than 2000*l*. After the 25th of March next, the Lord-Lieutenant may recommend that ———'s salary and apartments may be put upon the Civil List; but considering that the vote of credit is granted for the purpose of enabling His Majesty to carry on the war, it will be difficult even to consider ———'s salary, much more his apartments, as expenses incurred under that head. However, what the Duke wishes must be done; and if there be not room upon the Secret Service, properly so called, for ———'s apartments, it must be put upon the vote of credit. I should wish, however, that the whole should be delayed till after the 25th of March, when we may put both salary and apartments regularly upon the Civil List, where both ought to be.

I must delay till to-night to answer part of your letter of the 20th, as some papers to which I must refer are at my house. The Archbishop of Dublin is to have 100*l*. instead of the collar of the Knights of St. Patrick, as it is found that all the collars are of copper instead of gold, as required by the statutes, and it is apprehended that he will make a breeze upon that subject. We must, therefore, purchase gold collars for the Knights as they will be created; and when we shall have purchased for the sixteen, there will be an end of the expense, excepting for the Archbishop's fee.

I have frequently urged the propriety, if not the necessity, of submitting to the House lawyers* in Ireland all bills relating to

* Counsel retained by the Irish Government.

that country, and I will try it again this session ; but the truth is, we are so pressed for time here, and the gentlemen of the long robe in Ireland are so very slow in their proceedings, that we cannot refer to their consideration one bill conveniently with the despatch which it is necessary to give to them.

I'll speak to Mr. Foster on the application from the Chief Justice. I am afraid that it cannot be complied with.

Jocelyn's exchange and the Customs' salaries are deferred till to-night.

In answer to your letter of the 22nd, of which I return the enclosure, I have to mention to you that I know ———, and believe him to be a fellow ripe for any mischief. Some time ago he took a farm near Leixlip, and he was busily employed in farming the last time my attention was drawn to him, which was just before I went abroad last summer. We had him closely watched at that time. I think that you would do well to have an eye upon him now.

——— was in London ; but both he and ——— may have been in Dublin, and may be again in London for what I know. But if ——— be in London I shall hear of him, as I have already adopted measures for that purpose. You had better look out for both him and ——— in Dublin. ——— is the brother of ——— in Newry, with whom Mr. Trail and Sir E. Littlehales had a correspondence last year on a riot committed by the yeomanry near Newry.

I have given my consent to the renewal of the distillery in Ireland from corn : first, because I was of opinion, from what I heard of the harvest of last year, that there was plenty of corn in Ireland for every purpose, notwithstanding the greatness of the price ; secondly, because I was convinced that, that being the case, the private distilleries would distil from corn, whether we should prohibit the distillation from the legal distilleries or not ; and thirdly, that the Crown might as well get the revenue from the distilleries as lose it under these circumstances. Besides this, I conceive that there is nothing more prejudicial to the people of Ireland than to encourage their temptation to break the law, and that it is better to allow the legal distillery of corn, even at the expense of a greater consumption and an increase of price of that article, than to have the gentlemen of the country and their servants combining to break the law by setting up a private and illegal distillery. We have against us upon this

measure the West India merchants, the exporters of corn to England, and the gentlemen of those parts of Ireland in which private and illegal distillation has always prevailed to the greatest degree. Among these last are the gentlemen of Sligo, and I am, therefore, not astonished that Mr. Croker should have made the representation to which you refer in your letter of the 22nd.

If the Lord-Lieutenant should agree in opinion with me upon this subject, I wish that you would have written and sent over to me, to be delivered to Lord Liverpool; a *private* despatch, stating the principle which I have above detailed. No evil can result from the measure now in contemplation, as the King in Council will have the power at any time to stop the distillation from corn in Ireland.

Ever yours,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[621.]

To Colonel Gordon.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

London, 25th Feb., 1809.

I enclose a letter, with its enclosures, which I have received from Sir E. Littlehales, by desire of the Lord-Lieutenant, in which the case of Captain Saurin, of the 82nd regiment, is stated for the consideration of His Royal Highness.

It appears that Captain Saurin having been placed on half-pay without taking the difference, and having purchased his company, lately paid the difference to return to the full pay, with a view of realizing the sum which he had paid for his company; that after he had made this arrangement, he found that, according to the rules of the service, the Commander-in-Chief would not allow him to sell, and ordered him to join his regiment. As he was not aware that this was the rule of the service, and as he is entirely unable to join his regiment, he requests leave to return again on the half-pay, receiving the difference which he lately paid. I shall be obliged to you to let me know if this can be done.

Ever yours,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Hon. C. Jenkinson.

[622.]

MY DEAR JENKINSON,

London, 25th Feb., 1809.

I enclose the paper about which I spoke to you this morning, in which you will see the descriptions of ——— and ———. They are notorious rebels.

———— is well known by character to Beckett. He used to frequent the Vere-street coffee-house. ——— was in Ireland last summer ; but he may now be here.

Ever yours sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[623.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 26th Feb., 1809.

If you will refer to my letter of the 15th of February, you will see that the exchange of persons to fill an office wished for by Mr. Jocelyn is in respect to an office at Dundalk.

I refer you to my letter of the 4th of February for my sentiments on the claims of clerks in the Customs to compensation in lieu of fees. I think that letter solves the difficulties stated in yours of the 20th.

I wish that you would inquire more particularly respecting the want of a permit office at Clonmel. I know that when I was there I thought such an office was necessary.

I enclose a note from Lady Elizabeth Monck, with a letter from Lady Jane Loftus, respecting a claim she has upon the Royal Canal. What Lady Jane wants cannot be done ; but I shall be obliged to you if you will inquire whether such a grievance as she represents really exists, and if it does, whether it is so extensive as to render it worth while to bring in a substantive bill to remedy it.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Countess of Clare.

[624.]

MY DEAR LADY CLARE,

London, 26th Feb., 1809.

Excuse me for having delayed to answer your note respecting Mr. Preston ; but when a man sits up all night, he is not in a state to answer the letters of a lady in the daytime.

You may depend upon it the Lord-Lieutenant will not make any arrangement for the disposal of the Deanery of Limerick till Dean Crosbie shall die ; and I mentioned the circumstance to you only to ascertain through your means whether, if the Lord-Lieutenant should be able to give the Deanery to Mr. Preston, it was probable that the Chapter of Kildare would elect a person to be Dean of Kildare whom the Lord-Lieutenant should recommend.

From Mr. Preston's letter I am afraid he entertains confident hopes that he will succeed to the Deanery of Limerick, which I was not authorized and never intended to convey ; and I shall be much obliged to you if you will take an early opportunity of undeceiving him on this point.

I have every disposition, and so has the Lord-Lieutenant, to serve him ; but I cannot hold out any prospect or engagement for the disposal of any Church preferment till it will be actually vacant, notwithstanding I have that disposition, and, above all, a sincere and anxious desire to do whatever will be agreeable to you.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[625.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 26th Feb., 1809.

Parliament has pressed upon me so much in the last week, that I was not able to write to you. You will have seen how the Duke of York's affairs have terminated. The temper of the House of Commons and the country is terribly against him, and I don't see in what manner he can be kept in office. However, the decision on the question is deferred till the week after next, and we shall be better enabled by that time to ascertain exactly the sentiments of the supporters of the government.

I enclose a letter from Charles Stewart, in which he asks for a supervisor's office. I told him I was afraid he was too late.

I don't know whom to recommend to you for the police bar-rister's office, as I have not got the papers we prepared last summer, in which we weighed the pretensions of the different candidates ; however, they must be among Trail's papers. I recommend you not to give the office to the relation of any one of the aldermen.

You will do well to avoid saying anything about the next blue riband for a short time. . Lord Sligo is the greatest card ; but he ought to wait. Lord Thomond has a fair claim, and so have Enniskillen and Longford. Lord Caledon is out of the sphere of Irish politics at present, and will certainly get the riband some time or other, if he wishes it ; but might, without injustice, be laid aside. We must resist the demand of Lord Sligo and Lord Desart to be in the Privy Council for some time longer. It will be impossible to do anything in Judge Boyd's case. I could not apply to Parliament, even if government should deem the measure expedient.

Bethell's letter is most impertinent, and ought not to be answered. He is mad, as I can prove by his letters to me. I have written him a short, dry answer to his application to succeed to Mr. Lysaght.

I enclose four memorandums ; one from Sir John Stewart, on the part of Lord Abercorn, which does not appear unreasonable. I kept back purposely that from Croker respecting the office of supervisor of hearthmoney.

In respect to the office of comptroller of Waterford, it is one to be formed, instead of the patent office before held by Croker, and which he was obliged to vacate when he stood for Downpatrick. When he vacated, the office, as a patent office, was abolished by law, and new officers were to be appointed to do its duties. The Commissioners have reported that it is necessary to have a comptroller at Waterford, with a salary of 200*l.* per annum ; and I have made a mark under the word *must* in the memorandum, because Croker, when he resigned the office to stand for Downpatrick, certainly stipulated that his deputy, Mr. Pennell, should continue to do the duty of the office, and, when its establishment should be arranged, should have some advantage from it.

The other memorandum in favour of Mr. Patrick Fitzpatrick is for your consideration. Probably if the government should adopt the plan of the Board of Customs in respect to the storekeeper's office, it might be possible to make Mr. Fitzpatrick one of the storekeepers.

Ever, my dear Duke, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[626.]

To the Bishop of Meath.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 27th Feb., 1809.

I have received your Lordship's letter of the 28th, and I am glad to find that you make such progress in granting money for the purpose of building churches, building and repairing glebe houses, and purchasing glebes; and I am convinced we may rely on the zeal of the Bishops to carry into execution the measures which have been adopted with a view to those salutary objects. I will consider of the amendments to the existing laws which you have suggested, and will prepare a Bill upon the subject, to be introduced when there will be a fit opportunity, if it should be thought desirable to adopt them.

The newspapers have, as usual, misrepresented the object and the provisions of the measure which I proposed in order to enable the Bishops of Ireland to correspond with their clergy free of postage; the measure would give the Bishops the power of sending and receiving letters free at their see houses, in the same manner and to the same extent as the Lords of Parliament. But, unfortunately, I experience so much opposition to the measure from the Postmasters-General, and, in general, from so many other persons, that I have not been able to make any further progress in it than to obtain leave to bring it in.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[627.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 27th Feb., 1809.

You may tell Sir John Carden, in answer to his letter respecting a chaplain for Templemore, that when the chapel and the barrack are built, the Lord-Lieutenant will take into consideration the propriety of granting a salary to a chaplain.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

[628.]

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 27th Feb., 1809.

I have just received your letter of the 23rd regarding the letter you proposed to write to the Commander of the Forces respecting the barracks in Ireland. My intention is that those barrackmasters who had been allowed to do their duty by deputy hitherto should be allowed to continue to do their duty in the same manner; and as there is only one barrackmaster in Ireland, viz. Sandford, who does his duty in this manner, Lord Harrington should be informed that he alone would be allowed to employ a deputy in future.

It appears, however, from your account of your letter to Lord Harrington, that you had informed him that those barrackmasters who had received their offices as a reward for their services should be allowed to nominate deputies. I think this extends the principle too far, and much farther than I intended; and I recommend that you should confine it entirely to that one barrackmaster who has heretofore acted by deputy, and that every other barrackmaster should be obliged to do his duty in person.

If you will peruse with attention my last letter upon this subject, you will see that I intended that those only who had acted by deputy before should continue so to perform their duty in future.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[629.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 27th Feb., 1809.

I send you a letter from Mr. Webb, of the *Correspondent* Office. I request you to see Mr. Webb and tell him that I prevented the paper from going over to him because I did not think it proper that anything for any individual should be sent by the express. But I have directed that the *Pilot* may be taken in for me at the Secretary of State's office, and may be sent over by every express; and I shall be obliged to you if you will have the paper given to the *Correspondent*. Make Mr. Webb acquainted with this arrangement.

We have just been beaten upon the Irish Distillery question ; so that private distillation must continue for another year.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[630.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 28th Feb., 1809.

I have received your letter of the 24th instant. I don't understand exactly what order of Council of the 14th December you refer to in that letter. I enclose the only order of that date issued here, which does not appear to apply to Ireland at all. I do not find that it was ever sent over to Ireland from the Secretary of State's office, at least they cannot find the copy of the despatch in which it was enclosed ; and, moreover, they say there, that they have never received this order in Council from the Council Office.

Let me have as soon as you can the following papers :—

1st. The copy of the order in Council of the 14th December, to which you refer in your letter of the 24th instant.

2ndly. A copy of the despatch in which it was sent to Ireland.

3rdly. A copy of the proceedings adopted upon it in Ireland, whether by the Lord-Lieutenant's order or by the Lord-Lieutenant in Council.

4thly. A copy of the Bill which the Attorney proposes should be brought in to set right the mistake which he supposes has occurred.

I likewise request to have as soon as possible a copy of the despatch, written last year by the Lord-Lieutenant to the Secretary of State, relative to an increase of the grant to the seceders from the Synod of Ulster, and a copy of the plan of distribution for the whole grant to that body referred to in that same despatch. These papers cannot be found in the Secretary of State's office.

I wish that you would urge Leslie Foster and Duigenan to come over as soon as possible ; to be here by the 8th of March, on which day the House will be called over.

Yours very sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Send the enclosed letter to Beresford's bank.

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

[631.]

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 1st March, 1809.

I have received your letter of the 27th February respecting the conduct of Mr. ——. In the first place, I observe that in stating Mr. Harrison's complaint, Mr. Connor, in his report, does not state that Mr. Harrison was required to charge for many tons of coals more than he had delivered to the office, as Mr. Harrison had declared; but that he had been required to give money in lieu of coals to the messengers. This is not a fair statement of the case. It may be true that the money to have been received from Mr. Harrison would have been divided among the messengers, and that it was demanded instead of their allowance of coals; but before it was set down in Mr. Connor's report that Mr. Harrison had been required to give money in lieu of coals to the messengers, it would have been proper for Mr. Connor to inquire what quantity of coals was required for the War Office, what quantity was allowed to each of the messengers, and what quantity had been received from Mr. Harrison, and what number of tons not delivered Mr. Harrison had been desired to charge for. By a comparison of these accounts Mr. Connor would have been able to ascertain whether the messengers had or had not received their coals, and whether the number of tons which Mr. Harrison had been directed to charge for was that number which was deficient in the quarter's delivery, and was that number of tons which was due to the messengers.

I cannot but think the conduct of Mr. — to be so disgraceful as it is impossible to retain him in the War Office. He first denies and afterwards confesses that he demanded a *douceur* from Mr. Harrison. Mr. Harrison supplied the office with coals; and Mr. Harrison was not allowed to continue making this supply on the alleged imputation that the coals he supplied were of a bad quality. It will not be readily believed that if Mr. Harrison had charged the tons not delivered, and had given the *douceur*, his coals would have been complained of, or that he would not have continued to supply that article to the office.

Unless we dismiss Mr. —, it will be difficult to make the public believe that we were not parties to his corruption; and I strongly recommend you to remove him from his office entirely.

I beg you to take the Lord-Lieutenant's pleasure upon this subject.

There is nothing so liable to abuse as the practice in offices of receiving money from tradesmen in lieu of goods to be delivered by those tradesmen. I strongly recommend you to prohibit this practice altogether. If the messengers attached to the War Office are entitled to coals, let them have coals. If it should be settled that they are to have an allowance instead of coals, let that allowance be paid them by the office; but I object to the coal-merchant paying the value of the allowance of coals in money, and charging the coals to the public.

You should fix the allowance of coals to be delivered monthly to your office, and the allowance to be delivered to each individual entitled to have them in his own apartments.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[632.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 1st March, 1809.

I have received your letter containing the Report of the Court of Inquiry regarding the conduct of the officers of the Wicklow militia, supposed to be concerned in the peculations of Colonel ———; and I acknowledge that from the manner in which the case is stated I should doubt whether the charge could be proved against the Adjutant. It might against the Paymaster and the Serjeant-Major, and I am convinced that not only the two last, but the first, as well as all the Captains of the regiment, were parties to the practices of Colonel ———.

In respect to the measures to be pursued, I recommend first, that the Lord-Lieutenant should offer a reward of 500*l.* for the apprehension of Colonel ———. It won't answer to appear indifferent upon this subject. I would not bring the others to trial, or even intimate an intention of bringing them to trial, till Colonel ——— should be secured and tried, and then the Paymaster, Adjutant, and Serjeant-Major should be tried, and it is probable that evidence against them will be found in the trial of Colonel ———.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[633.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 4th March, 1809.

I have received your letters of the 25th and 27th.

I don't know what to say to the proposal of the parish of St. Werburgh's to have the power of letting their lands for ninety-nine years. It will occasion other demands of the same description, and, at all events, will lead to discussion in the House of Lords, where I have no power of meeting it. Why cannot they let their lands in the manner of a Bishop's lease?

The Archbishop of Dublin and the Chapter of Christ Church have the power of letting their lands only for forty-one years, and yet a great part of the city is built upon the estate of the former. I will speak to the Archbishop about it; but I acknowledge that I wish that the subject were reconsidered. At all events the measure must be one of a substantive Bill, and cannot be introduced as a clause in any other Bill. It relates to private matter, and it will cost the parish a large sum of money.

I have written to Sir E. Littlehales respecting Mr. ——. I think the case a very serious one, and in these times it must be noticed.

I think you are right in giving — his 200l.

The superintendent magistrate of the police must not have any assistance not allowed by the Act of Parliament.

I enclose a letter from —, giving an account of the departure from Liverpool of two Irishmen, — and —, whose papers, he thinks, it would be desirable to search. He says they are gone to Derry in the *Cygnat* brig. Could not their papers be searched under the pretence that they were carrying letters in breach of the Post-Office laws? You will have heard of these persons from Trevor, but I mention them in order to make this suggestion.

I enclose a memorandum which Colonel Longfield has given me, and I shall be obliged to you if you will lay it before the Lord-Lieutenant.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[634.]

To A. Macnaghten, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 4th March, 1809.

I wrote to Ireland, as I told you I would, respecting the office held by Mr. Martin.* This gentleman retired from his office some time in the last spring, and the office was filled at the recommendation of Lord Donegal in the manner which I explained to you when I last conversed with you. Mr. Martin has since died, but he had no office at the time of his death.

Ever yours faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[635.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 6th March, 1809.

I have received your letters of the 28th February, and of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd instant. I will inquire respecting the error in the writ for the election of a Peer.

I wrote to the Lord-Lieutenant respecting the successor to Mr. Rochfort of the Post-Office, supposing it should be desirable to remove Mr. Rochfort from the office of Accountant-General.

I should be sorry to advise any measure which should appear to discountenance General Lee, and, above all, any measure which is inconsistent with the promises held out in his proclamation. But by reference to my letters of 4th and 12th February, you will see my opinion upon the whole of this question. The best thing to be done now is to desire General Lee to withdraw his proclamation as soon as the term which he intended it should last will have concluded, and direct him to proceed on the principles stated in my letter of the 12th of February.

The office of Comptroller of Waterford referred to in one of your letters of the 2nd, respecting which I wrote to the Lord-Lieutenant, is not to be given to Mr. Croker himself, but to a friend of his. The Lord-Lieutenant understands the arrangement, and has told me that it shall be given to Mr. Croker's friend.

I am afraid that I have not explained myself clearly on the subject of the compensation in lieu of fees to be given to

* Of Agher, county Tyrone, and Summer Hill, Dublin.

clerks. My notion is, that the fees of clerks, as well as of other officers in the Customs, ought to be considered in the light of salaries allowed by the public, and that they ought to hold their compensation in lieu of those fees by the same tenure by which they have hitherto held their fees. So far we understand each other, and are agreed. Then comes the question of superannuation and retirement, in the discussion of which you object to my principle, and urge that if they are allowed to hold their compensation in lieu of fees for their lives, the public will have to pay the compensation during the period of eight lives instead of during the period of one, or rather during the pleasure of one person, as these clerks have been appointed by, and have held during the pleasure of, their principal in the office. Upon this objection I answer first, that compensation upon retirement is entirely a different consideration from retirement after length of service. Whatever may be the amount or principle on which compensation is granted, any other principle may be adopted in granting retirement; but secondly, I should say in answer to this objection, that fees being considered in the light of salaries paid by the public, the officers of the *Customs*, no matter by whom appointed, have been in the habit of receiving their amount upon retirement from office; and I see no reason why a clerk who has received fees, and is to receive compensation for them, should not receive upon retirement the amount of the pension of superannuation which he would have received if the principle of compensation in lieu of fees had never been adopted, in which pension would have been included in that case the value of his fees.

Vereker is gone over with leave, having paired off with Mr. Quin. I believe Fitzgerald mentioned to me his wish to go, but not latterly, and did not obtain my consent. O'Dell certainly never communicated with me on the subject.

I will consider the other parts of your letter of the 3rd this night or to-morrow morning.

Lord George Seymour has been with me respecting his office of craner and wharfinger, upon which he has represented a case of considerable hardship, if the principle of compensation in lieu of fees should be extended to it at all; and more particularly if the calculation of their value should be made upon the returns of 1804. He says that his office is held under a lease from the Crown, that it was actually purchased by his father in Chancery, and that he pays the Crown a rent for it, to this day. He says

also that in consequence of the rebellion in 1803, the value of the office in 1803 and 1804 was much diminished, and that its value has been considerably increased lately by the erection of cranes, and other expenses incurred by the holder of the office, and he contends that it would be very unfair to deprive him of the value of the expenses which he has thus incurred. He also contends that the Act of Parliament which abolishes fees does not extend to the craner's office, or to any of the patent offices; and he says that the principle on which the Lord-Lieutenant directed that the patent offices should discontinue the receipt of their fees after the 1st of January does not apply to his office; as first, his fees are due and paid by the merchants for labour performed by the craner; secondly, their amount is fixed by the merchants themselves; thirdly, the craner and wharfinger has nothing to do with the receipt of the revenue, or with any accounts by which its amount is to be checked or controlled; and, therefore, that not only the principle of the Lord-Lieutenant's order, but that of the Act of Parliament itself, does not apply to his office.

He has desired that I would request you to talk to Mr. Marshall upon this subject, and let me know the result, with your opinion upon what he says. I confess that I am rather of opinion that the craner and wharfinger of the port of Dublin might with advantage be put on the same footing with the *badged* quay porters; that is to say, might be allowed to continue to perform his duties, receiving the payment for them from the merchants, the amount of this payment being settled by authority from the Commissioners and government.

In answer to your private official letter of the 28th of February, I mention that I think that the Commissioners of Inquiry ought to go on with the Post-Office rather than with the Board of Works, for reasons into which I will enter at some future period.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[636.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 6th March, 1809.

I received your letters of the 28th February, and 1st and 2nd March.

I wrote to Sir C. Saxton about Ardglass Harbour, and sen

him some papers upon it, and requested him to let me know whether you approved of it, and would allow the King's consent to be given to the reception of the petition by the House of Commons. I waited for the answer till the last day fixed for receiving private petitions, and then gave the King's consent to its being received, because I knew that this consent went no farther than to allow the House to entertain the subject; that after I had signified it, I might take any time upon the subject which you might think proper; and that to have omitted to signify it on that day, would have had the effect of deciding the question in the negative at least for this year.

You will have heard that the Brest fleet went into Rochefort, it is supposed, with the intention of attacking our squadron blockading that port.

I recommend Babington, if the Chancellor should approve of him, or Jamieson, to be the police barrister. Judge Day's nephew would also be a good appointment, if the Chancellor and Attorney and Solicitor General have a good opinion of him.

The Duke of York is certainly in a bad way. All that we can do will be to acquit him of corruption, and indeed I doubt whether we shall be able to carry him so far as to acquit him of suspecting Mrs. Clarke's practices, and allowing them to go on. If we should succeed in both these objects, the question will turn upon the point whether it is proper that a Prince of the blood, who has manifested so much weakness as he has, and had led such a life (for that is material in these days), is a proper person to be intrusted with the execution of the duties of a responsible office. We shall be beat upon this question, I think. If we should carry it by a small majority, the Duke will equally be obliged to resign his office; and most probably the consequence of such a victory so hardly earned will be, that the government will be broken up.

Lord Bathurst tells me that he has written to you fully upon every subject, so that I don't enter into details, but I give you the outlines and my opinion upon the probable results.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[637.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 7th March, 1809.

I enclose a copy of the Irish Militia Bill, which I beg you to show to the Attorney and Solicitor General, and let me have their opinion upon it.

There is an omission in the Bill of the clauses stating what the pay is of the different ranks of officers and soldiers in the militia.

Mr. Townshend intended, I believe, that this should be inserted in the Militia Pay Bill. But I apprehend the Militia Pay Bill is to enable the Crown to pay the militia, and that it is annual, and that the Permanent Militia Bill will be incomplete without the clauses providing the rate of pay to be received by each rank. Consult the Crown lawyers upon this point.

Let me have the Militia Families Bill, as amended by Mr. Townshend.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

STATEMENT of the EFFECTIVE NUMBERS of the MILITIA of IRELAND, and of the Number wanting to complete to the Establishment.

30th December, 1808.

Regiments.	Effective Rank and File.	Wanting to complete.	Regiments.	Effective Rank and File.	Wanting to complete.
Antrim	460	340	Leitrim	545	55
Armagh	573	227	Limerick County	528	272
Carlow	439	161	Limerick City ..	462	138
Cavan	500	100	Londonderry ..	767	233
Clare	408	192	Longford	533	..
Cork, North ..	510	50	Louth	720	180
Cork, South ..	454	346	Mayo, North ..	550	150
Cork City	548	12	Mayo, South ..	529	171
Donegal	699	1	Meath	647	153
Down, North ..	476	124	Monaghan	647	153
Down, South ..	478	122	Queen's County ..	449	151
Dublin County ..	420	180	Roscommon	597	203
Dublin City ..	543	257	Sligo	544	56
Fermanagh	450	..	Tipperary	769	231
Galway	788	212	Tyrone	868	132
Kerry	714	86	Waterford	499	61
Kildare	368	52	Westmeath	424	176
Kilkenny	613	187	Wexford	733	267
King's County ..	587	213	Wicklow	508	92
Total			Total	21,347	5,736

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[638.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 7th March, 1809.

I received last night your letter of the 4th, and I write immediately to request that you will avoid giving the Grand Jury of the city of Dublin any assurance that government will support the Bill which they propose to introduce into Parliament till I shall have considered its provisions.

Ever yours truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[639.]

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 9th March, 1809.

I have only time to tell you that, having mentioned to the Lord Chancellor the error in the writ for the election of a peer in the room of Lord Sligo, his Lordship observed that the writ was a good one, as he had issued it; but that his Lordship might himself be attacked for having issued a writ upon improper or insufficient grounds. The election may therefore continue.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord H. Fitzgerald.

[640.]

MY DEAR LORD HENRY,

London, 11th March, 1809.

I have received your letter, and I assure you that it would give me and the Duke of Richmond great concern to promote any object which should become prejudicial to your interests.

The only step taken hitherto respecting the port of Ardglass has been to allow Mr. Ogilvie's petition to be received by the House of Commons. I did this because Mr. Rennie, the surveyor, and the Admiralty have strongly recommended the construction of the works at Ardglass as objects of public utility; but the measure still remains open for my consideration and that of every member of parliament; and I assure you that I feel no inclination to promote the expenditure of the

public money for Mr. Ogilvie's advantage if I shall not be convinced that the public will derive benefit from it. I shall feel less inclination to promote such an expenditure if its effect should be to injure your interests.

I don't exactly see in what manner the construction of the works at Ardglass, supposing them to be desirable on public grounds, can be injurious to your harbour of Strangford. On general principles I am desirous of increasing the number of the ports of communication between the two countries, from a conviction that it must be advantageous to both, and most particularly to all parts of Ireland; but as far as I have looked into the case of Ardglass in particular, I should be of opinion that the construction of the works there would be an advantage, not only to that place itself and to the general interests of both countries, but to all the small ports in that part of Ireland.

I have, however, no prejudice upon this subject; and I assure you that I will not recommend the measure if I should not be convinced, on an examination of its merits, that benefits will be derived from it fully adequate to the expense to be incurred.

Believe me ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[641.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 12th March, 1809.

We have had three days' debates upon the Duke of York's concerns. Perceval made the best speech I ever heard in Parliament; but the impression is very strong against the Duke, not on the score of corruption, or on the knowledge or even connivance or suspicion of corruption, but on the score of imprudence and submission to the influence of Mrs. Clarke. I think that Banks's motion will be carried; if it be not, it is probable that something equally strong in a different shape will be carried, and this will force him out of office. If this should be the case, I think that Lord Harrington will succeed him. I have urged this arrangement, really thinking it the best, and that you should have the command of the army in Ireland. In my opinion the only chance there is that government will be

affected by the fall of the Duke is in the case of his being kept in his office by a small majority; in that case the contest for his removal will be continued, the counties and populous cities will take part in it, and government will fall in his ruin.

Ever yours,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Hon. C. Jenkinson.

[642.]

MY DEAR JENKINSON,

London, 12th March, 1809.

I enclose some letters received lately from Ireland. Tipperary and Waterford are still in an uncomfortable state; and I am much afraid that we shall be obliged at last to put in force the Insurrection Act in these counties. You will see that one outrage has lately been committed in Kerry.

Ever yours,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[643.]

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 12th March, 1809.

I proceed to answer those parts of your letters of the 1st, 3rd, and 4th, to which I have not already replied; and your letters of the 6th and 7th.

I write to the Lord-Lieutenant respecting Mr. Rochfort's son.

A Bill will be brought into Parliament to extend to Ireland the powers vested in the King by the Act of the 33rd of the King in respect to the exportation of naval stores. In the mean time the proclamation of the 14th December cannot be considered as extending to Ireland.

Has the Attorney-General considered whether the Lord-Lieutenant does not possess under an Irish statute the same powers of preventing the exportation of naval stores from Ireland which are given to His Majesty in respect to Great Britain under the Act of the 33rd of the King?

I think that Mr. Macnaghten ought to be paid his expenses, whatever they may be, and so I shall tell him. The Crown

Solicitor, however, must see that under the head of law expenses on this account, charges are not made which ought not properly to be included. I don't think your reasoning respecting the exclusion of the charge for the special counsel at all conclusive, because I conceive that if government had originally defended Mr. Macnaghten, which ought to have been done, we should have sent down a special counsel, probably the Attorney or Solicitor General.

The intention of Parliament was that the Lord-Lieutenant's chaplains should have certificates during the time they should be actually on duty, and should have licence of absence during that time. Desire Mr. Townshend to draw out a certificate for Mr. Bourne, according to the terms of the Act, for the time he has been on duty, and I will sign it.

Mr. Wilson appears to be as well able to make out a charge as any gentleman I have had any concerns with. He ought to have 200*l.* and his travelling expenses to Kerry and back again, and no more. Two guineas a-day and horse-hire is a little too much.

I return his memorial. He must state his claim to compensation for the loss of his office in a petition to the House of Commons, which petition must not contain an account of his defeat of mobs with his single arm, &c. &c., but a simple statement of the length of his services in the police, and praying compensation for the loss of his office. It must also contain an account of his emoluments made up, not according to an inflated account of emoluments received last year, but according to an average sketch of his receipts of legal emoluments in the three last years.

He should state upon oath what he has received on each account in each year, and the state or average of the whole. This should be on a separate paper, to be sent over to me.

He should likewise prepare a petition to be presented to the House to ask for leave to present a petition, notwithstanding that the time for receiving private petitions has elapsed.

In answer to your letter of the 6th, I have to recommend that the Lord-Lieutenant should refer Mr. Bagwell to the Insurrection Act, in which he will see that the first step towards proclaiming any county under that Act is for the magistrates to address the Lord-Lieutenant, and to recommend that the Act should be put in force; and Mr. Bagwell should be reminded

that he had been repeatedly informed that his Grace had no objection to put the Insurrection Act in force if the magistrates of the county expressed their opinion that it was necessary, and supported that opinion by documents to prove that outrages existed, that the magistrates had exerted themselves to get the better of the disturbers of the public peace, and that all their exertions had failed.

In respect to Major ———, he ought to be desired to confine his attention to his duties as Brigade-Major of Yeomanry. He really does more harm than good; and he ought to be called upon to state what it is that prevents him from getting the better of the disturbers of the public peace at present, if he really feels any inclination to make any exertion for this purpose. If I find that he continues to alarm the country by false or exaggerated reports, as he has done lately, I will recommend the Lord-Lieutenant to remove him from Tipperary to some other county.

I must oppose the increase of the pipe-water rates. The houses of the city of Dublin cannot bear the expense of the local taxes. I have written to the Lord Mayor on the subject, and expect his answer.

I am not aware of any claim that Mr. Knox, the assistant-barrister, has, which has not been fully satisfied by what he has already received from government. At all events, I cannot promise to make any relation of his a commander in the navy.

I will see what I can do respecting the Bishop of Cork's Bill, but I think that the gentlemen of Cork would do better to put this Bill in the hands of their member.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[644.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 15th March, 1809.

I lose no time in answering your letter of the 11th relative to Mr. ——. My opinion upon this subject is stated in my letter to Sir Edward Littlehales of the 1st instant, of which I enclose a copy, and I see no reason to alter it.

The falsehood told by Mr. — not only proves him to be entirely unworthy of confidence, but shows that he was aware

that the act of which he had been guilty was not inoffensive ; as, if it had been inoffensive in his own opinion, for what reason should he endeavour to conceal it by a falsehood ? If it had been the avowed practice of the office, and it was so understood, why should not Mr. — avow it ?

The reason for which I recommended that Mr. — should be made an example was, that I thought that we should not be able to convince the people of Dublin that the transaction had not been countenanced by government, and at all events by Sir E. Littlehales, if Mr. — were not removed ; and I acknowledge that I was more particularly led to make this recommendation because I observed that there was an endeavour on the part of Mr. Connor (of whom, however, I entertain a high opinion) to alter the character of the fact in his report of it ; and indeed if I had been satisfied with the perusal of his report, which I might have been, I should not have been aware of the real circumstances of the case. Besides this, I must add that I entertain a very bad opinion of the clerks in the War Office. Probably you are not aware that we discovered some time ago that some of the most important records in the office (all Lord Cathcart's papers relating to the defence of Ireland) had been carried away, and this circumstance has never been accounted for in a satisfactory manner ; and I was determined never to pass over any irregularity which I should discover that they had committed.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[645.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 16th March, 1809.

I have received a letter dated 9th March from Sir E. Littlehales relative to the appointment of adjutants to certain corps of yeomanry.

Under the Yeomanry Act in Ireland, and those passed in this country since the Union, the Lord-Lieutenant has the power of appointing adjutants, or indeed any other officers, to such corps of yeomanry as he may think proper ; and in former discussions upon this subject I proposed that the measure adopted in this country in respect to the volunteers should be

applied to the yeomanry of Ireland, that is to say, that an adjutant should be appointed to every corps consisting of 300 men and upwards. This measure had been adopted partially in Ireland, and 21 corps of yeomanry in Ireland have adjutants, each receiving the pay of 6s. per diem. But besides these 21 corps, there are 11 more, of the strength of 300 men and upwards, to which no adjutants have yet been appointed; and I recommend that you should allow of the appointment of adjutants to these 11 corps, upon the pay of 6s. per diem each.

These adjutants should be men of good character, who have served for four years or upwards in the line, fencibles, militia, or East India Company's service, as a commissioned officer or serjeant-major. Their allowance should be only 6s. per diem, notwithstanding that persons holding similar situations in Great Britain have an additional sum of 2s. per diem horse allowance. I don't consider that allowance to be so necessary in Ireland, although it is equally necessary that the adjutant should ride, and therefore I don't recommend you to give these adjutants more than 6s. per diem each.

Besides this question, which Sir E. Littlehales has referred for my consideration, he has referred another relating to the same subject, upon which I am about to give you my opinion. You will recollect that last year you settled that arrangements should be made to induce the companies of yeomanry in different parts of Ireland to embody themselves into battalions for the purpose of exercise, and of service eventually; and it appears that in Ireland there are about 100 of these battalions, of the strength of 300 men and upwards, to which the principle of appointing adjutants might be applied with advantage. I doubt however whether, under the Yeomanry Acts passed in Ireland previous to, and here since, the Union, the Lord-Lieutenant has the power of appointing adjutants to these battalions as "military corps" so assembled for the purpose of exercise or service. As I have stated at the commencement of this letter, it appears to me that the Lord-Lieutenant can appoint any officer he pleases to any company or battalion of yeomanry, and upon this principle might appoint an adjutant to each company of yeomanry composing these military corps. But unless he should adopt this measure, it appears to me that he can appoint to these battalions or military corps so assembled for the purpose of exercise or service, no officer

excepting a General officer. I recommend you to have a question put to the law officers upon this point, in which, as it is one of law and the construction of Acts of Parliament, I may well be mistaken. If the law officers should be of opinion that the Lord-Lieutenant has the power of appointing an adjutant to each of these battalions composed of separate companies assembled for exercise or service, I then recommend that you should order a despatch to be framed to the Secretary of State, stating the arrangement, or referring him to the former despatch reporting the arrangement made in respect to these battalions of yeomanry, and require his opinion whether you ought to appoint adjutants to those battalions whose numbers should exceed 300 men. I think this necessary, because the expense of this establishment, taking the pay of these adjutants at 6s. per diem, will amount to 10,000*l.* a-year and upwards; and I don't think that you could with propriety add such a permanent expense to the establishment without consulting the Secretary of State.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[646.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 17th March, 1809.

I have deferred the consideration of the Militia Bill in the Committee till Thursday next; and I should be glad to have before that day the Report of the Attorney and Solicitor-General upon that copy of it which I sent over for their consideration, and also the Report of Mr. Townshend upon the expediency of omitting in this Bill the clauses fixing the pay and allowances of the different ranks in the militia service.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[647.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 17th March, 1809.

My notion of the claim of the clerks to compensation in lieu of their fees, to be held for their lives, rested entirely upon the

notion that they had been in the habit of receiving pensions of superannuation upon retirement. If they have not been in the habit of receiving such pensions, or if their fees have not been taken into consideration in fixing the amount of their pensions, supposing that it has been customary to give them any, of course there is an end of the principle on which my opinion was founded ; and I agree with you that clerks who receive compensation in lieu of fees should hold the compensation only by the same tenure by which they held the fees, that is, during the time they shall hold their offices.

Pray let me have the detail of the capture of Breñnan,* about which several questions have been asked me.

Ever yours, &c., .

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

I will speak to Mr. Foster respecting the office of Craner and Wharfinger of Dublin ; and it will be as well to delay giving orders respecting the compensation to that office till you shall hear from me.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[648.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 17th March, 1809.

I have received from Sir E. Littlehales a Report from Brigade-Major Collis, dated the 3rd of March, conveying the Brigade-Major's opinion that it is no longer necessary to keep on permanent duty the yeomanry of the county of Clare. I don't think the Brigade-Major to be exactly the person who should give an opinion upon this subject ; but if it be really true that the county of Clare is in such a state as no longer to require that the yeomanry should be placed on permanent duty, I recommend that they should be discontinued.

Ever yours,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* A notorious highwayman who was the terror of wealthy travellers, and had long eluded capture.

[649.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 17th March, 1809.

In answer to your letter of the 9th, I have to observe that Ogilvie appears to expect great things from me, notwithstanding that I told him positively that I could go no farther than allowing the House to consider his petition till I should be made acquainted with your sentiments, and that I should not have taken the step I did take if it had not been the last day for receiving private petitions. As far as I have seen the papers respecting Ardglass Harbour, I believe the works to be erected there would be of use. Of course, much must depend on the report of the Commissioners of the Customs; and probably if their report be adverse to the measure, you will not allow it to be supported in Parliament, notwithstanding that it is recommended by Mr. Rennie and the Lords of the Admiralty. However, I believe that Ardglass has the capacity of being made the best harbour on the eastern coast of Ireland for vessels of the size of frigates, and there is no doubt that such an harbour is much wanting.

It is impossible to do what Lady Cahir desires respecting her canal. All that is to be done by the Bill which I propose to bring into Parliament is to continue the Board of Navigation and to provide for the payment of their salaries out of the Consolidated Fund, instead of as heretofore out of the sum of 500,000*l.* allotted to canals, and now spent. Her Ladyship writes, that Parliament should give an opinion upon the expediency of establishing the line of navigation which she patronises; but we have no document on which we could found the recommendation that this opinion should be given; if we had, it would take more time than this session would afford to examine those documents in a committee; and above all to recommend that Parliament should give this opinion in favour of this particular canal before the expediency of making it shall have been under the consideration of, and shall have been recommended by, the Board of Navigation, is inconsistent with the principle on which we continue the existence of that Board, and on which I bring in this Act of Parliament.

I refer you upon this point to your despatch upon this subject to Lord Hawkesbury, and his answer.

Will you have Mr. MacIntaggart appointed to be collector of

Drogheda? He is the gentleman whom Mr. Foster wishes to have the office.

I enclose a letter from Colonel Barry, expressing a wish that he should be appointed a member of the Linen Board. I believe it is more important to him than it is to any of the other candidates to belong to this Board.

Ever yours sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[650.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 18th March, 1809.

I avail myself of the express which I am despatching to Sir Edward Littlehales to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th this morning.

Be so kind as to apprise the deputies of the Seceders from the Synod of Ulster that their case will be brought under the consideration of Parliament in this session, that I am preparing the materials for that purpose, and that the measure which I shall propose to Parliament is that which I agreed upon with them in the last year. You will tell them, however, that it is desirable that this arrangement should not be talked of till it will be carried into execution, and that there is no necessity for the presence of the ecclesiastical agent of the Seceders in London.

I shall be much obliged to you if you will send through me, or send me, copies of all the papers which you transmit to the Secretary of State's office. As soon as they arrive there they are invariably sent into circulation, and do not return to the office sometimes for a fortnight, and I am unable to answer the questions put to me either in public or private on the subjects to which they relate. I made a request on this subject before. It has been the invariable practice of the office to transact the business as I have above stated, at least ever since I have been at the head of it; and I request that it may be continued as long as I shall continue in office. The capture of Brennan is a particularly interesting subject in this town, upon which I have received no intelligence excepting a line from you adverting to the fact, and what I see in the abstracts of the correspondence of the office.

The certificate to Mr. Bourne must be signed by me or the

Lord-Lieutenant, and must state that he is occupied by the duty of his office as chaplain.

In respect to the claims for compensation of the land-waiters, the question is not whether the year 1804, or rather the average of three years to that year, will give a fair criterion of their profits, because that question has been decided by Parliament, but whether the land-waiters and others concerned can show any ground for a new inquiry into the profits of their offices up to that period, on account of deficiency of information before the Commissioners of Inquiry. If they cannot show such ground for a new inquiry, we must abide by that which has taken place.

I don't think that you can employ the Commissioners of Inquiry in these inquiries.

I have written to the Lord-Lieutenant respecting Mr. Rochfort.

Ever yours truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[651.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 22nd March, 1809.

You will have seen in the newspapers the conclusion of the Duke of York's affairs. General Dundas is I understand, appointed Commander-in-Chief,* I should imagine very much against the inclination of the King's ministers; but I understand that it is expected that the Duke of York will be able to resume his situation by the time that Sir David will be quite superannuated, and it might not be so easy to get a younger or a better man out of office at so early a period. If the other arrangement had been adopted, I think Cradock would have been second to you; indeed, that arrangement would have been one of the motives for the promotion of Lord Harrington.

Do you think ——— quite a fit man to be secretary to the Commission of Inquiry? I don't mean as to ability, but I mean he is too much connected with the jobbing factions in Ireland for that post, whose jobs it was the object of the Commission of Inquiry to curb.

Ever, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* Sir D. Dundas was appointed Commander-in-Chief on the removal of the Duke of York from that post.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[652.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 22nd March, 1809.

I enclose a paper which the Bishop of Limerick has given to me regarding the union of the late Mr. Day's parishes. You will observe that the Bishop recommends that the benefice should be divided into two; the one to be formed of three parishes, the other of two; and he recommends that these unions should be formed episcopally, rather than by the authority of the Council. I conceive his reasoning to be conclusive upon the whole of this subject, and I presume that you will attend to his recommendation. If you should do so, it will be necessary to have a letter written to him to apprise him of your intention of acceding to his recommendation by dividing the benefice lately held by Mr. Day into two benefices, each to consist as proposed in the enclosed paper, and to signify your wish that he would unite episcopally the parishes as he proposes.

You will observe a note by the Bishop of Limerick in one of the papers, enclosed in that which he has written, which papers have been transmitted to the Bishop, I believe, from the Council Office. The parish of *Kilcolomon*, mentioned in that paper, is not in the gift of the Crown, and must not be united with any of the others. If it should be so, it will give Lord Glandore a claim to the presentation jointly with the Crown, and thus the patronage of the Crown would be injured. Indeed, I do not understand in what manner the clerks of the Council, if they sent the enclosed paper to the Bishop, were induced to insert that parish as one of those to be united with those in the presentation of the Crown.

Ever, my dear Duke, yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[653.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 22nd March, 1809.

The bill respecting the export of naval stores from Ireland will be prepared by the Council Board.

I enclose Macnaghten's bills of costs for examination. He urges that, as Plunket was employed *specially* against him, the Crown must have brought down the Attorney or the Solicitor-

General *especially* for him, and that on this ground that part of the bill ought to be allowed. There may be something in this plea.

Mr. Bourne may be supposed to act as first chaplain on the score of announcing to the other chaplains which of them is to do duty. But the plea of the performance of the same service in St. Werburgh's Church as in the Castle Chapel will never answer. Still the certificate by Ready will not be sufficient; it must be signed by the Lord-Lieutenant or by me; by me more properly, and it must be drawn in the words of the Act of Parliament.

The arrangement which I proposed in conversation with you in respect to those officers of the Customs, whether patentee or otherwise, who should not be satisfied with the compensation for their fees, made up according to the return of those fees which they had given to the Commissioners of Inquiry in 1804, was this: if they should be able to show that they had not made the return themselves, and that the person who made it was ignorant of the real receipts of the office from having been for so short a time in possession of it; or if, having made the return themselves, the same reason for ignorance should exist, they should be allowed now to make an amended return on oath; these amended returns to be referred to the Commissioners of Customs to inquire into, and their report to guide the Lord-Lieutenant's decision. The person, however, whether patentee or otherwise, not to be allowed to make an amended return, who could not show that he or the person who made the return was necessarily ignorant of the value of the office when the return was made; or, if it were made by a deputy who had the requisite knowledge, that there was fraud on the part of the deputy.

I will talk to Mr. Foster respecting the plan of the Commissioner of Customs to buy out the Patentee Storekeeper, and will let you know my opinion as soon as I shall have conversed with him.

I have presented Wilson's first petition.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Earl of Harrington.

[654.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 23rd March, 1809.

I enclose an extract of a letter which I have received from a Mr. Coghlan in this town, which may be of use to you. The object of his letter to me was to obtain an office ; but, in making his application, as you will observe, he states facts in respect to the subsistence of the soldiers which might deserve inquiry, and, if true, might be remedied. I likewise enclose a paper which I have received from Mr. Foster, which may also be useful to you : it is a list of the names of the places in Ireland in which the Board of Excise are desirous that detachments of troops might be stationed with a view to prevent private and illegal distillation. I think it probable that you have parties already in many other places for the same object ; but if you provide for those stated in this list henceforward, I should imagine that the Board of Excise will have no ground of complaint. If you approve of this list, it can easily be made an official paper ; and measures can be adopted to procure accommodation for the troops at any of the stations named at which such accommodation is now wanting.

I hope that you have been quite well throughout the winter. We have had hard and disagreeable work, and I am not well pleased with the result.

Ever, my dear Lord, most truly yours,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Pray present my best compliments to Lady Harrington and the Ladies Stanhope.

To the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval.

[655.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 23rd March, 1809.

I return Lady Dunsany's letter to Lady Northampton. The question of Lord Dunsany's right to the presentation to certain livings in the diocese of Meath has been considered by the law officers of the Crown in Great Britain and in Ireland ; but there still appeared to be one point in the case which had not been fully considered, and it was referred again for the consideration of the Attorney and Solicitor-General in Ireland. If the result of this consideration should be to establish the opinions

before given in favour of Lord Dunsany's right, the Lord-Lieutenant has no objection to adopt every measure in his power to give it validity and effect; but until all doubts on the subject are removed, I don't think I can with propriety recommend his Grace to adopt any measures which can injure the rights of the Crown.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[656.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 23rd March, 1809.

I have received your letters of the 18th and 21st. The best arrangement to be made of Croker's office of Surveyor-General would be to make one of the Surveyors-General of Customs Surveyor-General of Excise, and to appoint Mr. Clendining (D. Browne's friend*) to be Surveyor-General of Customs: he has been already in the Customs. Denis Browne, however, is gone to Dublin; and if, upon inquiry from him (upon fair notice that, if Mr. Clendining should be found not fit, he will certainly be dismissed), he should report well of him, it would be as well to appoint Mr. Clendining a Surveyor-General of Excise, as I fear that the Surveyors-General of Customs would be unwilling to pass under the rod of Lord Annesley.

Charles Stewart is very anxious to have an office of supervisor of hearth-money for a friend of his, if you can give him one.

I enclose the memorandum of an application from Mr. Cooper, made this day, for the office of Port-Surveyor of Sligo, said to be vacant. I don't understand Lord Blayney's memorandum. Lord Wellesley has no estate or influence in Monaghan. What his Lordship wants is, I believe, some letters of recommendation to the East Indies, which he shall have. I sent the letter to Lady Edward, who is gone to Chichester.

Ever yours truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* The Right Hon. Denis Browne, M.P. for Westport.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[657.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 25th March, 1809.

I have moved for a new writ for the city of Cashel in the room of Mr. Quintin Dick, and I shall be obliged to you if you will let Mr. Pennefather know that the person whom I wish should be returned is Mr. Peel.* I will let you know his Christian name by express to-morrow. We wish to have him returned by the meeting of Parliament, after the recess.

Ever yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord George Seymour.

[658.]

MY DEAR LORD GEORGE,

London, 25th March, 1809.

Although I have not written any answer to your several letters, I have not been inattentive to what you desired me to do, and I have discussed and arranged the subject with Mr. Foster.

He proposes to bring in a bill in a few days to apply the Act of last session in relation to the officers of the Customs in Ireland, to the officers appointed by patent, and we shall except the office of craner and wharfinger from the provisions of both Acts.

There will still remain to be decided the quantum of compensation to be given to you and your brother for the loss of your fees in the last quarter, upon which point I shall be glad to converse with you when you will call upon me, either in the morning at my house or in the afternoon at my office. I write to Ireland this day to desire that the business of your office may be conducted on the same principles as previous to the 1st of January last.

Have you a copy of your lease of the office? Do you and your son, as well as your brother, hold the office by lease?

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

* Afterwards Sir Robert Peel.

[659.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 25th March, 1809.

I refer you to my letter for my opinion respecting the situation in which the deputies of the patentee officers stand in respect to their principals. These deputies are not entitled to the pension of superannuation upon retirement, and therefore the compensation to them must in that view of the case only be coeval with their tenure of the office.

But there is another view of this question which must be attended to in fixing the amount of compensation to the deputies and its tenure. The deputies are appointed by the patentee officers ; part of the profits, or at all events part of the advantages of the office, is derived from the power of appointment, and it would be a breach of the patent to deprive the deputy of part of his emoluments during the term that the patentee should continue to hold it.

The office of deputy, therefore, to the patentee officers of the Customs must continue to receive compensation in lieu of fees as long as the patentee shall continue to hold his office. I am aware that this arrangement will put large sums into the pockets of the patentee officers ; but that cannot be avoided. Under their patents they have a right to appoint their deputies, and to give them such proportion of their emoluments as they may think proper, and you cannot deprive them of these powers, or, in other words, break their patents, under colour of an arrangement for fixing compensation for the officers of the Customs in lieu of fees. The quantum of compensation in lieu of fees to the patentee officers and their deputies must be decided upon the same principle as the same is decided in respect to every commissioned officer of the Customs.

I have had a discussion with Mr. Foster respecting the office of craner and wharfinger, which appears to stand in a situation entirely different from all other patentee offices. First, this office is held by lease from the Crown, for which a rent is paid. Secondly, it was purchased at a public auction in Chancery. Thirdly, the fees paid to this officer are not of the same description with those paid to the Custom House officers ; they are for labour actually done for the merchants, for which he must pay somebody.

The craners likewise stand in another respect in a very distinct

point of view. They receive no fees to which they are not entitled by law, and they contend for it that if their fees under their lease are to be abolished, they have the same right as every other proprietor has to have the amount of compensation fixed by the valuation of a jury. On these grounds, and as I don't think the principle of our measure applies necessarily to this office, we have determined to except the craner's office from the provisions of the bill which we propose to bring in, declaratory that the Act of last session was intended to apply to the patentee offices in general. I request you, therefore, to move the Lord-Lieutenant to order that directions may be given to the Commissioners of Customs that the duties of the craner's office are to be carried on as they were previous to the 1st of January last, and that they are to receive the same fees.

Ever yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Mr. Foster thinks that Beresford's case had better be deferred till he and I shall return to Ireland.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[660.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES, London, 26th March, 1809.

The Lord-Lieutenant has informed me that he would give directions to refer again to the Commissioners of Customs the propriety of constructing the proposed pier at Ardglass, and I shall be obliged to you if you will urge the Commissioners to decide upon this question, so that if the decision should be favourable, it may be brought under the consideration of Parliament immediately after the holidays.

I wish also that you would urge the Commissioners of Customs to report on the reference made to them in respect to the harbour at Portsmouth, which, as well as I recollect, was made before I left Ireland. The papers were received from Sir George Hill.

Ever yours truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[661.]

To W. Ogilvie, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 27th March, 1809.

I have received your letter of yesterday, and I am concerned that the measures adopted by the Lord-Lieutenant for the consideration of the propriety of erecting the proposed pier at Ardglass do not meet with your approbation and concurrence. I must say, however, that I am of a different opinion, and that I conceive the Lord-Lieutenant would not do justice to the public if he did not adopt every measure in his power, much less if he did not adopt every measure which the course of office requires, to throw light on the propriety of erecting this proposed pier before he should give his sanction to the expense.

Neither do I think that your arguments against the former Report of the Commissioners of Customs afford any ground for not consulting their opinion again in consequence of the fresh information received on the subject ; nor did I ever think that you had any fair ground for attacking their Report.

The Commissioners gave on that occasion an honest opinion upon the point referred for their consideration, and were no more bound to abide by the report of the inferior officers employed by them than you wish the Lord-Lieutenant to consider himself to be bound by the report of the Commissioners. If your argument be conclusive, that the subject ought not to be referred again for the consideration of the Commissioners because they have delivered an opinion against the work, then the measure must come under the consideration of Parliament, with the influence of the opinion of the Commissioners against it, and you will find out when it is too late the use which will be made of that opinion.

In respect to the King's consent to the entertaining of the petition by the House of Commons, you have entirely misapprehended the extent and meaning of that consent ; and I don't think you have given a fair interpretation of my intentions in giving it. It is for this reason alone that I trouble you upon this subject. I gave the King's consent to the entertaining of the petition by the House of Commons before the Duke of Richmond had decided upon the measures which government should adopt respecting the pier at Ardglass, because the last day for receiving private petitions was come ; and if I had not taken this step upon my own responsibility, I should have de-

feated your measure, whatever might be ultimately the opinion of the Duke of Richmond. This you know perfectly, because I explained it to you; and I also explained to you that I did not consider myself or the government bound to take any particular line on the grant to Ardglass in consequence of my having signified the King's consent to allow the House to entertain the petition. I might have omitted this last explanation if I had thought proper, and should still have been at liberty, according to all parliamentary practice, to take what line I pleased in the discussion of this question; and for the proof of the truth of this observation I refer you to the history of the proceedings of the last session of Parliament in the case of Mr. Palmer.

I wrote to Ireland on Saturday to desire that the reports of Mr. Rennie and of the Board of Admiralty might be referred to the Commissioners of Customs, with directions that they should revise their former opinion, after having considered those reports. I shall oppose myself to the adoption of any measures in Parliament till I shall receive this revised report of the Commissioners; and after I shall have received this report, I shall take such line upon the subject as the Lord-Lieutenant will think proper.

Ever, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[662.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 27th March, 1809.

I have received your letters of the 22nd and 23rd. I will reply to those of the 22nd as soon as I shall have seen Mr. Foster and Mr. Sneyd. The state of the county of Waterford is lamentable, and unfortunately there is no remedy.

In respect to the dispute between the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, I recommend you to call upon the latter to state, for the Lord-Lieutenant's information, before they proceed any further, what ground they have for going to trial on the spirits in question, and whether they have taken the opinion of their counsel or of the Attorney and Solicitor-General on the expediency of going to trial. Upon the report, particularly of the opinion of the counsel, you will stop all proceedings.

I enclose some papers regarding the case of Mrs. ———, who claims a place on the Concordatum List. I have referred these papers to Mr. Pole, who agrees in opinion with Mr. Parnell that this lady is an object of charity, and I shall be obliged to you if you will put the petition among those of persons who claim a part of the Concordatum.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[663.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 28th March, 1809.

I have received from Sir Edward Littlehales certain queries regarding the execution of the law respecting the drafting of the militia, upon which I have written my answers, and enclose you the paper.

Ever yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[ENCLOSURE.]

MEMORANDUM.

24th March, 1809.

Militia Volunteering under the Act of 49 George III., chap. 5.

1st Clause.—His Majesty is to name and appoint the regiments of the line into which the men are to be permitted to volunteer.

Query.—What corps are to be nominated upon this occasion? and as there are no first battalions in Ireland, would it be advisable to extend the volunteering to the British establishment only?

This will be settled at the Horse Guards.

2nd Clause.—The period on which the number of men who may volunteer is to be ascertained is not defined by this clause; but on the principle of the 6th section it is presumed that the calculation is to be made of the three-fifths of the establishment of the corps on the 13th of March, 1809, the day on which the Act received the Royal Assent.

This rule was adopted under the 2nd clause, Act 47 George III., chap. 55.

5th Clause.—Query: Are the volunteers to be now permitted to transfer their services to the marines? or is it intended by the Act that they may at once volunteer from the militia to that corps?.

Query.—Is it intended that the provisions of the Act shall be brought into immediate operation? and if so, when?

Are the men to be attested for limited as well as for unlimited service? and if so, what rate and distribution of bounty is to be established for each class?

The clothing assignments of the militia in Ireland commence in the months of March and April in each year.

The men who have heretofore volunteered have been permitted to take the clothing in wear at the period of such volunteering, which has generally begun about the months of September or October.

The same rule to be adopted in this case.

Let the directions of the Act be followed.

As soon as orders will be received from the Secretary of State.

Orders will be sent from England on this subject.

The men may as well take with them the clothing in wear at the time of volunteering, and the militia colonels to have credit for it or not, according to circumstances.

But as the clothing for the present year will soon become issuable, it is for consideration whether, under the present arrangement, the former practice in regard to clothing is to be continued.

Are the officers to be employed in superintending the measure, and in receiving and conducting the volunteers, to receive the like daily and travelling allowances which were formerly granted, namely :

For the first period of volunteering,

Inspecting field officers	^{A day.} 15s.
Captains	10s.
Subalterns	5s.

The same as usual.

together with travelling expenses at 6*d.* and 9*d.* per mile. And for every subsequent period travelling allowances only?

Are the colonels of militia to be allowed to nominate the officers of their respective corps for ensigncies in the line in the proportion of one for every fifty volunteers?

The same as usual. But orders upon this point will be received from England.

In the arrangement of bounty, is any distinction to be made in the rate to be allowed for those who may be enrolled on or since the passing of the new Act?

The practice adopted here must be followed, about which orders will be sent from England.

In former instances it was decided, that where the full quota was not obtained from the men in the militia at the time of the passing of the Act, the recruits who joined the

militia after that period, and who subsequently volunteered, were allowed six guineas bounty for seven years, and fourteen for those who volunteered without limitation of time.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[664.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 28th March, 1809.

The name of the gentleman to be returned for Cashel is Robert Peel, Esq., of Drayton Bassett, in the county of Stafford.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To W. G. Rose, Esq.

[665.]

SIR,

London, 28th March, 1809.

In answer to your letter of the 1st instant, written by order of the Committee of Public Offices, I have the honour to enclose copies of accounts of salary and fees received by me in my office of Chief Secretary in Ireland since my appointment to it in April, 1809.

I beg to observe that the amount is made out in Irish currency.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

[666.]

DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 28th March, 1809.

I received this morning your letter of the 24th in regard to the draft of the Militia Pay Bill, and I have to request that another Bill to the same purport as that of last year may be prepared without loss of time.

Ever yours faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[667.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 28th March, 1809.

I intended to write to you yesterday (but was prevented), to inform you that Lord Castlereagh had offered me the command of the troops in Portugal, which I have of course accepted.

This will separate me from you, at which I feel much concern; but I will take care to leave all your business in good order, and to inform the person who will be appointed to succeed me, whoever he may be, of all your plans, and of the mode in which I intended to have carried through the measures of government in this session of Parliament.

Sir Edward Littlehales has written to me respecting leave of absence for himself, but I rather think as I am to leave you you will find it more convenient that he should not quit Ireland, at least till my successor will have taken possession of his office, which I suppose he will not do till after the session of Parliament in June.

Ever yours truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[668.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 28th March, 1809.

Sir Edward Littlehales has referred to my consideration whether the persons to be appointed adjutants of the corps of yeomanry should be appointed by you, by whom they should be selected, and whether they are to continue to receive their half-pay; in answer to which questions, I observe that they must, of course, be appointed by the Lord-Lieutenant.

You will do well, however, to attend to the recommendation of the officer commanding the corps to which the Adjutants are to be appointed in the selection of the persons to fill those stations, provided they are duly qualified, and these persons ought to be allowed to receive their half-pay, as well as the brigade-majors of yeomanry and other staff officers.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[669.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 28th March, 1809.

I have received a letter from Sir Edward Littlehales, regarding the discontinuance of the yeomanry in Limerick and Kerry from permanent duty, excepting certain numbers detailed in the enclosed copy of a letter from General Lee. I entirely concur in that measure, which, indeed, I had concluded from your former letter that you would carry into execution.

Ever yours truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[670.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 28th March, 1809.

I enclose a letter from the Provost to Mr. Leslie Foster, in which he claims for the College exemption from the Paving Tax. I doubt whether the words of the Charter which are quoted in the letter would exempt the College, more particularly as they have, by their own acknowledgment, paid a composition in lieu of the tax under a former Act of Parliament. But I should wish to have the opinion of the Attorney-General upon the subject. The College pay this large sum as a public building, and the Paving Funds cannot afford to lose any part of it.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[671.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 28th March, 1809.

I went to the Board of Trade this day respecting the artificers mentioned by you in your letters of the 24th and 25th instant.

In the first place, it appears that these artificers have been stopped at Liverpool, so that you need not give yourself any further trouble about them. But in case any question should arise in future respecting persons of this description, I wish to refer you to the English statutes for the provisions relating to

them. The first of these is the 5th George I., c. , which goes to the punishment of the seducers of artificers, as well as to the detention of the artificers themselves, who are obliged, when detected in the act of quitting the kingdom, to give security before a magistrate to appear at the next assizes. This statute does not relate to Ireland.

The next statute is that of the 23rd George II., c. 13, which lays a penalty of 500*l.* on persons convicted of seducing manufacturers, artificers, &c., from the kingdom, and this statute relates to Ireland, and was probably made the law of Ireland by Lord Yelverton's Act. Now, it appears to me that it cannot be lawful for an artificer to do that which another man is liable to a penalty for seducing him to do ; and that the King may, by his proclamation, forbid his subjects to commit, and prevent them from committing, this unlawful act. Then the question arises, is the ship to be detained which carries the person away? and upon this point it appears to me that the detention of the ship is only the means adopted by the Crown to carry into execution the intention of the law upon this subject.

There are other statutes, viz., the 13th, 14th, and 21st Geo. III. (I think), upon this subject, but they refer only to the tools of manufacturers and artificers, and I believe these statutes refer to Ireland. Will you request the Attorney-General to consider this subject with a view to that which I have above said on it?

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[672.]

To Sir Edward B. Littlehales, Bart.

DEAR SIR EDWARD,

London, 28th March, 1809.

I have received your letter of the 21st, and I have only to say that I have given my opinion to the Lord-Lieutenant upon the case of Mr. —, as well as upon the discussions I have had with you upon that subject, and which you had with others. From that time I have thought no more of it.

What passed upon that occasion, however, made it more clear than ever to me that I had acted erroneously in transacting, through your medium, that business which I ought to have transacted myself with the Lord-Lieutenant, and that the mode

which I had adopted, with a view to save his Grace some trouble, only led to increased discussions, to indecision, and delay. I have therefore determined to communicate myself with the Lord-Lieutenant on those points on which I have anything to recommend to his attention or adoption, as being the regular mode of transacting the business of the War Department, although it may give him and me more trouble than that mode in which I have hitherto acted.

In respect to your desire to come to England, I can have no objection to it, if the Lord-Lieutenant has none. I should think, however, that the Lord-Lieutenant would find it inconvenient to allow you to be absent at the same time with the Chief Secretary; and that as the session of Parliament will certainly be brought to a conclusion early in June, you will not find it inconvenient to delay your departure till that period.

Ever yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[673.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 31st March, 1809.

I have this day received your letter of the 27th. That which drew my attention in the abstract was the desire of the Lord-Lieutenant to know "whether there appeared to Baron MacClelland any objection to the grant of a conditional pardon to Francis MacGaurin;" because it was so worded that there was no judge in Ireland who would not have answered forthwith that he saw no objection to the grant of the pardon. This is a dangerous mode of obtaining the opinions of judges upon these subjects; they ought to be asked generally whether they have anything, or what they have, to recommend upon the particular case referred to them. The pardon in this case may have been perfectly proper; all that I advert to is the mode of asking for the opinion, which, considering the readiness of the Irish judges to recommend criminals for mercy, would, if generally adopted, occasion the pardon of every criminal in Ireland.

Mr. MacNaghten wishes much to have back all the original papers I transmitted on the subject of his claim, and I shall be obliged to you if you will send them to Mr. Flint for him.

I don't understand the objections of the Corporation to the Paving Bill.

Ever yours truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

There is no intention that I know of to delay the grant of compensation to the officers of Customs.

[674.]

To the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 1st April, 1809.

I enclose some papers on the subject of schools in Ireland, which I ought to have laid before you some time ago; but have been prevented from doing so by the pressure of business upon you in the beginning of the session, and I am afraid it is now too late to bring in anything upon the subject.

You will see that the opinions of the Attorney and Solicitor-General do not go to prevent the adoption of the plan proposed by me. I considered the trust leases to be valid; but I applied the surplus of the consolidated rents of all the schools to the general purposes of education; those of royal foundation forming one fund, those of private foundation each another. The opinions of the Attorney and Solicitor-General would militate with this plan thus far, viz., that they state that schoolmasters on royal foundations, duly appointed, &c., have a right to the rents of the estate. But these schoolmasters are appointed generally only during pleasure; and they might be removed, and any new arrangement might be made of the rents of their schools, by Parliament. The plan proposed of leaving the present incumbents in possession of all the emolument they have ever enjoyed, and taking for the general fund only the surplus which may accrue hereafter, is still more justifiable.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[675.]

To the Lord Bishop of Meath.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 2nd April, 1809.

I have received your Lordship's letter (no date) respecting the improvements which you think might be made to the Acts lately

passed in Parliament respecting the affairs of the Church of Ireland. I agree in opinion with your Lordship upon nearly all the points referred to in your letter ; but it appears to be the general opinion here, as it certainly is mine, that it is best not to open the question again in this session of Parliament ; and these amendments must therefore be postponed till some future and better opportunity.

Your Lordship will have heard that His Majesty has appointed me to command the army in Portugal. This arrangement will remove me from Ireland, but I shall always be interested in the prosperity of that country, and shall always be happy to do anything in my power to forward its prosperity or promote its peace.

I shall not fail to communicate to my successor, when he will be appointed, your Lordship's opinion upon the affairs of the Church, and I have no doubt he will be happy to attend to it.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[676.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 2nd April, 1809.

I received your letter of the 29th March yesterday. The gentlemen of the Horse Guards have been so much pressed lately that I have not been able to get them to do much ; but I will try Gordon again about your inquiries. You probably will not be able to get them all immediately, although you will some.

I quite forgot to relate to you the circumstances of a conversation I had with Gordon some time ago (before the Duke of York resigned) in respect to Ready's case. He said that Ready had gone into a garrison battalion, and that he could not be promoted from that situation. I told him that I concluded he had exchanged into a garrison battalion by desire of the Duke of York, who must have been aware of this circumstance when he promised you that Ready should have a majority. He said that he did not know how that was, but that the rule was not to promote an officer from a garrison battalion, and that Ready must exchange again. He finished, however, by saying that he would talk to me again upon this subject.

I have never been able to see him since that time till the day after I was appointed to command in Portugal ; but I will settle both this point and Lord Delvin's promotion before I leave England. I will mention both to old David, and will let you know what passes.

Torrens will not take the office of Secretary to the Board of Inquiry if it should remove him from his practice at the bar.

You ought as soon as possible to settle your pension list for this year, and recommend your pensioners. I recommend what follows to your consideration :—Mrs. Trail 400*l.* per annum. I forget whether the sum you intended to give her was 400*l.* or 500*l.* Lord ——— 200*l.* per annum. Lady Elinor Butler 50*l.* per annum. Miss Ponsonby 50*l.* per annum. These are the two ladies in whose favour I applied to you last year, and to whom I wrote by your desire to say that you intended to give them each 50*l.* this year, and each 50*l.* in the next ; but that they were to understand that you made them no promise, and might alter this intention. There will then remain to be granted 500*l.* if Mrs. Trail gets 400*l.*, and 400*l.* if she gets 500*l.* ; and I think you will be pressed from this side of the water for a pension for Lady ———. Lord Westmoreland asked for it when the government was formed, and Canning has since pressed for it ; and Lord Liverpool mentioned it to me some time ago. There are several claimants among the Irish nobility, but I believe you will find Lady ———'s claim as strong as any. She wants 300*l.*, and indeed ought not to have more ; and then you will have 200*l.* to give away in charities, which you will do better not to dispose of till towards the end of the year.

I have got George Berkeley appointed an Assistant-Adjutant-General in Portugal. But what do you mean to do about your sons ? I am decidedly of opinion that the best thing to do with boys who are to be officers, particularly with those who are likely from their station in the country to command armies in the course of their lives, is to give them a finished education ; and I would recommend you not to hurry your boys from school till their education will be more nearly complete. To see service with a regiment is important, but not, when they are very young, so much so as to complete their education. If, however, you should determine that they should go into the army, and be upon service as soon as possible, I will take care

of them ; and also that they shall not neglect those things which it is necessary they should know.

I don't know yet who is to be my successor.

I enclose a note from Ferguson respecting the plan of the country in which the battles of the 17th and 21st of August were fought. Will you send it to him at No. 3, Sackville-street, and he will return you a copy of it, with the Mafra country included ?

Ever yours, my dear Duke, most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Lord Manners.

[677.]

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 3rd April, 1809.

I enclose a letter, &c., which I have received from Mr. Croker, relative to the removal of Mr. — from the commission of the peace in the county of Down, upon which subject I troubled your Lordship in the last summer. I now do so again at the desire of Mr. Croker, who thinks it probable that the circumstances stated on oath by Mr. — may induce your Lordship to alter the opinion which you had formed upon this subject ; or that at all events your Lordship might think the length of time which has elapsed since Mr. —'s name was struck out of the commission of the peace a sufficient mark of your sense of the impropriety of his conduct, and that you might be induced to insert his name in the commission again from a sense of his good character in other respects.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[678.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 3rd April, 1809.

I enclose a memorial from Mr. Dodd, who claims compensation for some injury done to him by the militia in the county of Wicklow. As this injury was done a long time ago, I thought

it proper, before I sent it to Ireland for consideration, to refer to Mr. Cooke, who might remember some of the circumstances of the case, and particularly the cause for which the compensation for the injury was not given at the time the injury was committed. I enclose Cooke's answer, which will give you a clue by which to direct your inquiries into this case, if it should not be deemed conclusive upon its merits.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[679.]

To the Earl of Liverpool.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 4th April, 1809.

I enclose for your consideration the plan of an institution for education proposed to be fixed at Belfast, to which it is desirable that you should give your attention, and communicate with Mr. Perceval. The object of the institution is evidently to make Belfast the seat of the education of the Presbyterians of the north of Ireland, to the exclusion of the Scotch Universities and the College of Dublin. The success of this plan in this view of it alone would be inconvenient and dangerous, as it would separate to a greater degree this numerous sect from the inhabitants of Great Britain and from their own countrymen. But when it is observed that the institution is to be governed by the votes of subscribers of five guineas, and that it is probable that the republican spirit of the Presbyterians will pervade the system of education, as well as all the proceedings of the institution, the measure will appear more deserving the attention of the King's servants.

Its patrons are Lord Donegal and Mr. May. They, or rather the latter, has taken it up solely with the view of letting to advantage some ground at Belfast, of which he has a lease from Lord Donegal. But the great number of persons who have subscribed to the institution have the views which I have above attributed to them. Their object is to obtain from Parliament a charter, and possibly some public aid. If the government should agree with me in opinion that it is not proper to patronise this institution, I recommend rather that they should delay giving any answer to the applications made

for support to the views of its patrons in Parliament, than that they should meet them by a refusal. The pretence for this delay may be found in the pressure of public business, &c. &c.; and probably before it will be necessary to give any positive refusal to the applications, some system for the general education of the people in Ireland may be in contemplation, which will afford a good reason for not giving any encouragement to an insulated establishment of this description. In short, I strongly recommend to you neither to encourage this institution by a charter, nor to give ground for a belief that you have set your face against it, as in this last case it would flourish in a greater degree than it would by any encouragement you could give it.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Lord Castlereagh has some knowledge of the nature of this institution.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[680.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 4th April, 1809.

I enclose a memorial from the deputy comptroller of the pipe, an officer upon whom much duty and responsibility have fallen, particularly since government have determined to collect the forfeited recognizances in Ireland regularly.

The principal of the office, Mr. Tighe, is a prisoner in France, and he has made a very insufficient, if any, provision for the deputy, who is, I believe, his relation; and the deputy is unwilling, under these circumstances, to remunerate himself at the expense of the principal. On this ground he comes upon government. My opinion is, that government ought to make Mr. Berry do his duty, and if he does not do it as he ought for want of salary, they ought to dismiss him and Mr. Tighe, and appoint an efficient officer. I consider Mr. Berry's to be a case of hardship, and I had at one time some thoughts of recommending to the Lord-Lieutenant that he should have 100*l.* per annum on the Civil List; but upon considering the subject frequently, I

am convinced that the measure to be adopted in this instance is that which I have proposed.

Ever yours sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Mr. Barnard, who gave me this memorial, had a notion of giving Mr. Berry a per-centage on what should be collected ; but that would not answer without breaking up the whole system on which the recognizances are collected. This is by the county cess collectors, and the amount is carried to the account of the cess, by way of encouragement to the gentlemen of the county to countenance the collection of the recognizances.

[681.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 4th April, 1809.

I have spoken to Sneyd respecting his recommendation of Mr. Hindes and Mr. Elliott to be supervisors of hearthmoney. The fact is, he recommended both these gentlemen, and the former a long time ago, in concert with the Bishop of Kilmore ; and the latter not long ago ; and he wishes, if possible, to have a supervisor's office for each of them. If he can only get one, he wishes that Hindes should be appointed ; and if the Lord-Lieutenant cannot now give him a second supervisor's office, I shall be obliged to you if you will have Hindes' name substituted for that of Elliott.

I request you, however, to endeavour to find the means to procure a second supervisor's office for Mr. Sneyd, and I shall be much obliged to you if you will mention it to the Lord-Lieutenant as an object which I think desirable.

Ever yours,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[682.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 4th April, 1809.

I enclose a letter from Mr. May relative to the appointment of a deputy-storekeeper at Belfast.

Mr. Stephen May was some years ago appointed storekeeper of Belfast, and was afterwards made prisoner in France. His brother was then appointed to the office of storekeeper in trust for Mr. May, which he continued to receive till the other day, when he became a clergyman. Mr. May now writes that his son, Mr. Stephen May, may be appointed to the office of storekeeper again, and that Mr. Brett may be appointed Mr. Stephen May's deputy till his return from France. As the office has so long, and under so many succeeding administrations, been held in trust for Mr. Stephen May, I see no objection to this arrangement, which will give more security to government for the due performance of the duty than any other short of the dismissal of Mr. May, and I shall be obliged to you if you will ask the Lord-Lieutenant to carry it into execution. It will materially oblige Lord Donegal.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To J. W. Croker, Esq.

[683.]

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 5th April, 1809.

I have no objection to accommodate the Canal Company; but we must not lose our tax upon roads, which we must keep in repair, and light, nor upon future pavement.

I will write to the Duke of Richmond about your supervisor.

In respect to acting for me generally, it would be impossible for me to arrange such a thing, or indeed to propose it. I have not the power to do the former, and if I were to do the latter, I should be suspected of an intention to retain my office when on service. There are besides other objections and difficulties in such an arrangement, of which you are not aware.

I am very much obliged to you for your kind expressions towards me, and I assure you I have felt the greatest satisfaction in any little service which I may have had it in my power to render you.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[684.]

To J. W. Croker, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 5th April, 1809.

In case I should leave town before the Committee should meet to take into consideration the petition of Mr. William Logan for leave to present a petition, I beg to inform you that before I left Dublin in the month of January, 1809, Mr. Logan waited upon me at the Castle with a petition, to be presented to the House of Commons, and an estimate of the losses he had sustained by the establishment of the new system of police in Dublin. I gave him this petition again to be corrected, as I conceived that the estimate contained matters which I could not admit had been the fair profits of his late office. I left Dublin a few days afterwards, and I have reason to believe that Mr. Logan left his amended petition with the office-keeper, to be transmitted to me; but I did not receive it till it was too late to be presented to the House of Commons.

Ever, my dear Sir, yours most faithfully,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY,

[685.]

*To Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Gordon.**

MY DEAR GORDON,

London, 5th April, 1809.

I have received your note, for which I am much obliged to you; and if I should hear of the appointment of a successor to myself, I will not fail to mention to him the probability that he will derive much advantage from a confidential intercourse with you.

My wish was that your chief should have been removed to the Horse Guards, which I am certain would have been a better arrangement than that which has been adopted. But as it is, I imagine that you will stay in Ireland as long as Lord Harrington pleases.

I never met with so much opposition on any subject as I did to *all parts* of my Franking Bill, so much so that although not in general disposed to give way, I was obliged to do so in this instance.

* Military Secretary to the Commander of the Forces in Ireland

Your nephew wanted to go with me to Portugal, and I wanted to have him; but it appears that he made some engagement that he would join the 6th regiment, if appointed Major of it, and it is wished at the Horse Guards that he should keep this engagement, so that I could not have him.

Believe me ever, my dear Gordon, .

Yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[686.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 6th April, 1809.

I spoke to Sir David Dundas yesterday about Ready and Lord Delvin. He appeared well inclined to promote them, and desired me to give a note upon the subject to Colonel Gordon, which I have done.

I have also given in the list of persons who have applied, and they will have commissions as soon as they can be given to them.

I enclose a memorandum of an application which Mr. Alcock* made to me yesterday. I told him that the late Lord Sligo had applied two years ago for the only office of Surveyor-General which was vacant, but I would make known his wishes to you; and that I was very sure you would be glad to have an opportunity of gratifying him. He wanted to have the patronage of Waterford, in order to provide for his brother-in-law; and I am convinced that if you can give him an office such as he describes, he will be reconciled to his disappointment in that object.

Croker, to whom I have given charge of the detail of my business in Parliament till a successor will be appointed, has desired me to request that you would appoint Mr. Conyngham Miller to be a supervisor of hearth money. I shall be obliged to you if you will make a memorandum of this application.

I likewise enclose a memorial, which Colonel Foster gave me some days ago, containing an application from a gentleman to be appointed the Barrackmaster of a new barrack to be built in Dublin. I told him, in answer, that I was certain you would not appoint a Barrackmaster to any barrack till it was so nearly completed as to render such an appointment neces-

* William Congreve Alcock, M.P. for the county of Wexford.

sary. I send you this paper only because this gentleman has another office which it might be convenient to you to have to give away.

Ever yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[687.]

To the Earl of Liverpool.

MY DEAR LORD,

London, 7th April, 1809.

I was glad to receive your note from Combe Wood this morning, as I rather thought, from the conversation I had with Dundas* yesterday, that he wished his appointment to the office of Chief Secretary to be connected with other arrangements for his family; and I did not augur favourably of his intentions from the repeated question he put to me, why Long did not take the office.

That which induced me to believe that he wished that other arrangements should be connected with his acceptance of the office was his saying that government ought to appoint to the Board of Control a person connected or acquainted with him, both on account of the business of India and of that of Scotland, on which constant references were made to him.

The wind is now contrary, and I think it possible that I may not leave town to-morrow. I will certainly call upon you if I do; but I believe that I ought to lose no time as soon as I can get out of London.

Ever, my dear Lord, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[688.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

London, 7th April, 1809.

Lord Shannon, and not Lord Longueville, ought to have the nomination to the office of Tide Surveyor of the port of Cork.

I cannot give any opinion upon Sir Eyre Coote's case, as I have not seen the papers.

I leave town to-morrow, and I imagine that a successor to me will soon be appointed.

I cannot, however, go away without expressing the satisfac-

* The Right Hon. Robert S. Dundas, who became President of the India Board on the formation of the Portland Administration, accepted the office of Chief Secretary for Ireland on the retirement of Sir Arthur Wellesley.

tion which I have always derived from my communications with you, and' returning you my thanks for the assistance I have received from you.

Believe me, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[689.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

London, 7th April, 1809.

I am obliged to you for your letter of the 3rd. I rather believe Lady Wellesley will go to Malvern Wells as soon as the weather will be sufficiently warm.

I wrote to you that I had got Berkeley, and I should be glad to have Robertson if I could. But old David is so costive that it is difficult to get anything out of him, and I have not been able to get the assistance of many for whom I have asked.

You will have heard from Lord Liverpool respecting my successor. I think that the arrangement proposed, as far as my office is concerned, will answer admirably.

I shall be very much obliged to you if you will send down to the Board of Excise for their consideration the memorial of Mr. Flint, praying to have a salary as agent for the Excise as well as for the Customs. I believe he has 200*l.* per annum upon the Customs establishment, and, if the Board of Excise shall recommend the salary, I should wish him to have 100*l.* per annum on the Excise establishment. He has been very useful to me ever since he has been in office, and he is a very clever fellow.

I shall also be very much obliged to you if you will put down the name of Mr. William White to be made a supervisor of hearth money when there may be an opportunity. He has been recommended by a man by the name of Dardis in this town, who has given me a good deal of valuable information ever since I have been in office.

I leave town to-morrow ; and although our official connection will now cease, much to my regret, I shall not fail, according to my former custom, to keep you informed of everything that occurs.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[690.]

To the Earl Conyngham, K.P.

MY DEAR LORD,

Portsmouth, 9th April, 1809.

I received here this day your letter of the 4th, and I am much obliged to you for your kind expressions personally towards me.

As we have no fund in Ireland from which we can pay you for the commission which was disposed of by government in the Londonderry regiment, I have referred the subject to the Secretary of State, with a request that he would apply to the Commander-in-Chief for a sum of money from the half-pay fund to satisfy this demand. I have not heard the result of this application, but you will be made acquainted with the answer as soon as it will be received at the War Office in Ireland.

Ever yours, my dear Lord, most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[691.]

To Mr. ———.

SIR,

Portsmouth, 9th April, 1809.

I received at this place this day your letter of the 8th.

In consequence of a service rendered to the government by your father, Mr. ———, since the period at which he was dismissed from his office for misconduct, I recommended to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland that he should be rewarded, with which recommendation his Grace acquiesced; and Mr. ——— was made acquainted with the principle on which the reward would be calculated, and its probable amount, and he expressed himself to be perfectly satisfied. However, whether he had been satisfied or not, would have been immaterial to me; I was to judge of the value of his service, and of the amount of his reward, and decided this question according to my own opinions of propriety.

He has received a part of this reward, and he knows that he is to receive the remainder of it as soon as its amount can be ascertained upon the principle on which I settled that it should be calculated; but he has lately thought proper to complain, and has written me some most extraordinary letters, of which I have taken, and shall take, no notice. They will certainly not operate to procure an increase, nor shall they operate to produce a diminution, of the sum intended for him.

I consider my honour in no manner concerned in this transaction. I told Mr. ——— that, under certain circum-

stances, he should be rewarded ; he has been rewarded, in my opinion, amply ; and I will certainly do no more for him.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To the Duke of Richmond.

[692.]

MY DEAR DUKE,

Portsmouth, 10th April, 1809.

I have received your letter of the 6th instant. I think you will do quite right to appoint Ready to the situation which you propose to give him ; although I rather think he will now be promoted. The only doubt I have upon the whole arrangement is, in what manner you can get a retirement for French. The pensions on retirement are given only when the person retires from an office in the Revenue ; but there is no instance, excepting Lord Tyrawley, of a person being pensioned in the Barrack-office or Board of Works ; and that was a great irregularity.

I think you will do well to give Abbé Edgeworth 50*l.* a-year, and to Mr. King a similar sum.

I would recommend you to think of Lord Dufferin's brother for the living in the north.

I am waiting here for a wind.

Ever yours most truly,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Since writing the above, I have received accounts from town that they have received bad news from Portugal.

I enclose a letter from Bolton, of Waterford ; and I shall be obliged to you if you will inquire from Lord Chatham about his commission.

To H. Straton, Esq.

[693.]

SIR,

Portsmouth, 10th April, 1809.

In the Act which I proposed to bring into Parliament respecting Inland Navigation, I did not propose to make any alteration in the former Acts ; and I certainly should not deem it proper to propose any legislative provisions on the subject to which you have referred in your letter of the 3rd instant.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[694.]

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

Portsmouth, 10th April, 1809.

In answer to your letter of the 4th I have to say that I never heard of the issue of a sum of 100 guineas to Mr. Pennefather, upon the change of the Member for Cashel; and that no such claim was made at the time the arrangement was made that government should have the nomination to the borough.

I have settled that there shall be a very material alteration in the Paving Bill. As to the objection to the exclusion of the words "pavement and lights" after the words "within the Circular Road," I have to observe that the Paving Corporation under the Act of the 47th of the King are obliged to keep in repair the roads from the pavement to the Circular Road, and to light them; that they cannot perform these services without incurring expense; and that those lands which will pay this expense are relieved from county cesses for the roads under the same Act; and, in fact, pay no tax at all.

I beg to refer you to a letter I wrote to you some time ago on a point suggested by the Bishop of Meath in respect to Lord Dunsany's claims to certain advowsons in the diocese of Meath. I wished to have the opinions of the Attorney and Solicitor-General upon this point, and indeed that the whole question should be well and maturely reconsidered by them before the patronage of the Crown is ceded to Lord Dunsany. I understand from the Bishop that the cession of patronage will be very extensive, and that there are claims from others on the same grounds as well as from Lord Dunsany. This is the reason why I wished to have the subject considered, particularly in reference to this new point. I mention the subject now, because Lord Dunsany has written to Mr. Perceval that you had told him that there was no point for consideration, notwithstanding that I had written to Mr. Perceval that there was one. I cannot tell you the date of my letter, but I beg you to have my letters looked over, and you will find a reference upon this subject.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.

[695.]

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

Portsmouth, 10th April, 1809.

I enclose a letter, which I have received from the editor of the *Freeman's Journal*, which recalls to my mind the measures which I had in contemplation in respect to newspapers in Ireland. It is quite impossible to leave them entirely to themselves; and we have probably carried our reforms in respect to publishing proclamations as far as they will go, excepting only that we might strike off from the list of those permitted to publish proclamations the newspapers, both in town and country, which have the least extensive circulation, and which depend, I believe, entirely upon the money received on account of proclamations. I am one of those, however, who think that it will be very dangerous to allow the press in Ireland to take care of itself, particularly as it has so long been in leading strings. I would, therefore, recommend that, in proportion as you will diminish the profits of the better kind of newspapers, such as the *Correspondent* and the *Freeman's Journal*, and some others of that class, on account of proclamations, you should increase the sum they are allowed to charge on account of advertisements and other publications. It is absolutely necessary, however, to keep the charge within the sum of ten thousand pounds per annum, voted by Parliament, which probably may easily be done when some newspapers will cease to publish proclamations, and the whole will receive a reduced sum on that account, even though some increase should be made on account of advertisements to the accounts of some. It will also be very necessary that the account of this money should be of a description always to be produced before Parliament.

Ever yours, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

To R. ———, Esq.

[696.]

SIR,

Portsmouth, 10th April, 1809.

In the conversation I had with you in Dublin respecting your newspaper, I told you that the arrangement in regard to the publication of proclamations by all the newspapers had been made in consequence of a discussion in Parliament, and that

I could not alter it for any particular newspaper. You will be so kind as to speak to Sir Charles Saxton on the other objects mentioned in your letter.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

[697.]

To the Duke of Richmond.

MY DEAR DUKE,

Portsmouth, 12th April, 1809.

I have received your letters of the 8th and 9th. You will do well, if required, to divide Kenmare; and if there should be anything in the south of Ireland which will suit Mr. Longfield, to give it to him. Lord Westmoreland spoke to me respecting him the other day. If what you have be in the north, remember Lord Dufferin's brother Blackwood.

I enclose a letter which I have received from _____. I did not tell him what he says I did; and you may consider it as positively certain that I have made no engagement, nor held out any hopes of anything, to anybody. If anybody claims such a promise from me, call upon him to produce my letter making it; and the copies of my letters will be found in the possession of Mr. Forbes, and you may have them when you please.

In respect to _____, I have arranged the means of providing for him in case you had determined to give the Deanery of Limerick to Dean Preston. Preston could have prevailed upon the Chapter of Kildare to elect _____ to be their dean, and thus, without disgracing government, his object would have been effected.

I sail this day, and will write to you by every opportunity.

Ever, my dear Duke, yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

END OF IRISH CORRESPONDENCE.



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